



# REFUNDS DELAY AS FESTIVAL CRASHES

By Jonny Drury

**CUSTOMERS** are waiting to see whether they will receive a refund a week after an Oswestry music festival was cancelled due to a lack of ticket sales.

Fieldbounce Music Festival was set to take place on May 5 at Park Hall with the likes of Scouting for Girls, ODG Fuse, DJ Danny Howard, Bez from the Happy Mondays and Dappy among the line-up.

Just last month festival CEO Shawn Melusi confirmed that ticket sales had gone over the 5,000 mark, after more acts were added to the line-up including a dance competition and a comedy tent.

Standard tickets for the day cost £25, although VIP packages were also made available and organisers were hoping to attract 10,000 to the day.

But a statement posted on the festival's website on last week said that due to unforeseen circumstances, the festival has been cancelled.

And festival organiser Shawn Melusi shed light on the cancellation and said a lack of ticket sales and sponsorship meant a decision had to be made. He insisted he

was taking legal advice, and more updates would be issued surrounding refunds.

He said: "First of all we would like to thank you for your support. As you can imagine we have received lots of emails and we will eventually respond to you all.

"The reasons for the cancellation of the festival are sadly down to lack of ticket sales and lack of sponsorship, which meant we were unable to meet our financial deadlines.

"We are currently taking legal advice on our next move.

"Again apologies for having to cancel the event, we will send a further update on refunds in due course."

Mr Melusi has insisted once organisers know more information they would be contacting ticket holders.

Plans for the one-day music festival were launched by Mr Melusi in October last year.

Back then he stated there was a gap in the market for a music festival in the area, after the former festival Osfest ended.

The driving force behind the festival was Mr Melusi's charity work, having previously raised money for the Kenyan Schools Project and founded the Melusi Foundation.

## New exhibition inspired by the great outdoors



Exhibition organiser Sue Miller showing off Mervyn Rogers' art work which is on display at Oswestry Visitor and Exhibition Centre

THE great outdoors from past and present has been the source of inspiration for artists exhibiting in a town.

A new exhibition in Oswestry's Visitor and Exhibition Centre has work from a number of painters and multi-medium artists.

Husband and wife, David and Belinda Bell, took different routes to the world of painting. David graduated with a BA in fine arts while Belinda enjoyed adult education classes and

undertook an art history course at the open college of art.

Mr Bell said: "Most of my work depicts landscapes, with trees as the dominant feature. The Lake District and Yorkshire dales are among my inspirations."

Martin Lewis takes archaeology and neolithic sites as his starting point for his paintings and charcoal drawing and said the pieces in the exhibition have been completed over

the past 18 months. Now working in oils and acrylics Mervyn Rogers graduated in ceramics after studying at the Royal Academy of Art.

He said his work often includes objects found in the countryside around Ruabon and the Vale of Llangollen and said Ruabon Mountain provided endless ideas for his art.

The Visitor and Exhibition Centre in the grounds of Oswestry Parish Church is open Mondays to Saturdays.

## PLANNING

### Jobs boost for town as supermarket confirms new store

THREE years after original plans collapsed a brand new supermarket is finally set to be built on a piece of derelict land in Oswestry.

The Smithfield site, on Shrewsbury Road, has sat untouched since 2015, after plans for a £45 million Morrisons store and leisure complex fell through.

Now after numerous calls for action to be taken on the land, which was acquired on a £4 million lease, bosses at Morrisons have finally drawn up plans for a new development.

In a letter to Oswestry Town Councilors, the supermarket has stated that the development will include a new store, which will incorporate a garden centre inside a glazed entrance. Also included in the plans are a new café, a hand car wash, tyre changing unit and electric car charging points.

The development will create around 60 new full and part time jobs, on top of the 100 staff already employed in the Station Road store in the town. If permission is granted for the new supermarket, staff from the current town centre store would move to the new site on Shrewsbury Road.

Leaflets are now set to be sent to over 2,000 homes in the coming days informing local residents of the new plans.

## COMMUNITY

### Plan backed after seven years' work

A PLAN for the future of Powys that has been seven years in the making has moved a step closer after it was passed by cabinet members this week.

Powys County Council's LDP sets out future plans for solar and wind energy, housing, business development, employment sites, farm diversification, and developing the Welsh language.

The plans now go forward to be ratified at a full council meeting taking place on April 17.

## INSIDE

### Charity challenge for Hope House



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# Canal restoration work gets a £320,000 funding boost

Report by Jonny Drury

A 10-year project to restore a stretch of the Montgomery Canal has been given a £320,000 grant funding boost.

The Canal and River Trust is restoring the waterway from Montgomeryshire over into Shropshire.

Funding of £4 million helped start the project in 2017.

And now dredging work has begun on the stretch of canal between Berriew and Arddleen, near Welshpool, thanks to a £320,000 grant from the People's Postcode lottery. Currently the area is unnavigable and the work, which will finish at the end of this month, will clear the water so boats can use the canal.

Work will include removing vegetation such as fallen and dead trees from the water and preparing and restoring canal banks.

When the work has been completed, plants will be able to flourish in the area, and habitats will be created for animals.

Mark Weatherall, project manager at the Canal and River Trust, said the work was important for the canal's future.

He said: "It is vitally important to keep the Montgomery Canal in good health. If the water channel becomes choked with weeds, the water quality quickly deteriorates and becomes stagnant."

Mr Weatherall also said the latest works taking place benefit animals such as dragonflies and water voles.

The Montgomery Canal runs for 35 miles, and 19 miles have already been restored. It has been restored in England from Lower Frankton to the Gronwen bridge near Maesbury, and around 12 miles have been restored in the Welshpool area.

The £4 million worth of funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the European Regional Development Fund last year was to create new nature reserves on parts of the canal in England, and reline the canal bed to Crickheath. In Wales work will take place to restore 12 historic structures, dredge parts of the canal, improve towpaths, and get the community involved with activities on the canal.

## West End delight for youth festival winner



Hattie Candler, front, celebrates landing a leading West End role in *The Little Princess*. She is pictured with her classmates.

A STUDENT who enjoyed success at this year's Oswestry Youth Music Festival is off to the bright lights of the West End after beating stiff competition from hundreds of other young talented performers to land a starring role with the National Youth Music Theatre.

Hattie Candler, a student at Adcote School for Girls, at Little Ness, near Oswestry, has been awarded the role of Ermengarde, one of the main characters in *A Little Princess*, which will run in the West

End in August. The achievement comes after the 11-year-old won the overall title of Young Performer of the Year at this year's Oswestry Youth Music Festival.

Hattie, who is a member of Shrewsbury-based musical theatre group Get Your Wiggle On, said it was the first time she had ever taken part in theatre auditions of this kind and hadn't expected to get through to the second round, let alone land a part.

The production will take place at The Other Palace Theatre from August 9 to 12.

"My mum thought I should go to the auditions to learn how hard it was to work in theatre."

"I wasn't expecting to be called back to the London auditions," said Hattie.

"I came away feeling I did well but didn't imagine I'd get a part."

"Then when my mum came into the dining hall a few weeks later to tell me that I'd got a part and was playing the role I really wanted I nearly choked on my food and started jumping up and down."

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## 500 speed offences every day in Wales

MORE than 500 drivers were caught speeding every day in Wales according to new figures.

Out of 184,880 speeding offences recorded in all four police force areas of Wales, 13,420 of them happened in the Dyfed-Powys Police area in 2017, with the highest speed recorded being 115 miles per hour.

In 2016, West Mercia Police handed out 82,227 tickets, with no figure for 2017 yet announced. The number has increased marginally since 2016 in the area, with the busiest camera being on the A449 at Cefn Barn, which recorded 900 speeding drivers in 2017. Across Wales, the new figures represent an 8.1 per cent rise from 2016 when 171,000 offences were recorded.

The highest recorded speed across Wales was in Gwent, where a camera recorded a speed of 144 miles per hour. A spokesman for speeding charity, Brake, said: "The increase in speeding offences in Wales indicates a deeply concerning trend of unsafe driving behaviour."

"Increased police enforcement is welcome, however, we need more robust penalties in order to deter drivers from breaking the law and putting lives at risk on our roads."

More than half of all the offences took place in 30mph zones, and the busiest fixed speed camera in Wales was on the A483 dual carriageway at Rossett in Wrexham.

## Exhibition takes a step backwards

AN exhibition about life in Britain from 1945 to 1999 has gone on display in Welshpool.

A Kaleidoscope of Britain is the new temporary exhibition at Powysland Museum focusing on the second half of the 20th century.

Curators hope it will jog the memories of visitors who can remember the period.

# County could welcome more refugee families

Report by Jordan Reynolds

**SHROPSHIRE could welcome a further 10 refugee families to the county, using the support in place for the 14 Syrian families that have already been settled in the area, including in Oswestry.**

Shropshire Council's cabinet was due to decide whether to resettle the families during 2018/19 at a meeting yesterday (Wednesday).

Shropshire Council committed to the resettling of 15 Syrian families, made up of 63 individuals, in the county between June 2016 and March 2017.

The families have been resettled in four different locations throughout the county - five in Oswestry, five in Shrewsbury, three in Wem and two in Much Wenlock.

One family from Wem opted to move to Birmingham as they had friends and family already settled in this area. This reduced individuals to 59. However there were two births in 2017 with a further two due in 2018 taking the total individuals back up to 63. The emphasis is on immediate settlement into local communities with no "holding" accommodation.

Many of the individuals are volunteering and The Job Centre has told Shropshire Council that some are seeking work, but language "continues to be a barrier".

Each adult spends about six hours a week learning English and the children have settled in well to their schools, according to a report due to go to cabinet.

Shropshire Council received £536,000 in funding for the first year of the resettlement scheme, which was able to fully support the families with no financial impact on the local authority.

The council will also decide whether to assist in the Asylum Dispersal Scheme, in which case a minimum of 25 individuals would be resettled in the county.

The report concludes that it would be difficult for the council to engage in both of the schemes and that Shropshire would not be able to appropriately meet the needs of adult asylum seekers.

## New challenge laid down for hospice



Launching the cycle challenge at Hope House are, from left, Shropshire Gents Mark Charman, Ken McGillivray and Richard Kolbe with the Hope House care team Liz Norton, Shirley Gregory, Lyn Piatczany and Gwyneth Morgan

A NEW charity challenge has been launched to raise money for Hope House Children's Hospice.

The cycle challenge will be held this summer and takes in the beauty of Shropshire while raising money for the county's children's hospice which is based at Morda near Oswestry.

The North Shropshire Cycle Chal-

lenge on June 10 offers an 85-mile sportive, plus a 35-mile fun route suitable for all. It is being organised by the Shropshire Gentleman's Club, which has raised £300,000 for Hope House over the past decade through annual balls and members undertaking challenges such as cycling to Paris. Major gifts manager Vanessa Thomas said it will be a

"fantastic" occasion with refreshment and cheer stations along the route at Newport, Wem, Hope House in Oswestry, Ellesmere and Whitechurch. Standard entry fees are £25 for the sportive and £20 for the fun ride, but a £5 Early Bird discount is currently available.

Visit [www.hopehouse.org.uk/](http://www.hopehouse.org.uk/) events for details.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Take a trip on a narrowboat

THE chance to take a short trip on a narrowboat is on offer in Shropshire and the borders on Sunday.

The Canal & River Trust and Drifters Waterway Holidays will put on taster sessions to include free short trips on skittered narrowboats, as well as boat tours and holiday discounts.

Among the areas where people can enjoy a trip is ABC Boat Hire at Whitechurch and Ellesmere Marinas and Anglo Welsh at Trevor near Oswestry.

Further details about the open day events can be found at [www.canal-rivertrust.org.uk/trycanalboating](http://www.canal-rivertrust.org.uk/trycanalboating)

### Afternoon tea will help good cause

AN afternoon tea is being held at a village hall to raise money for a teenage cancer unit.

The vintage afternoon tea event at Llanfechain Village Hall will take place on Saturday from 2pm to 5pm. Money raised will go towards the unit at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

Tickets are £5 and are available from Gwyneth Thomas on 01691 828887 or 07908 095022.

### X-Factor winner Ben to perform

AN X-Factor winner will be in Oswestry to perform at a leading town venue.

Ben Haenow won the 11th series of the hit TV show in 2014 and took the Christmas number one that year.

The 33-year-old singer will perform an intimate gig at the Townhouse in Oswestry tomorrow (Friday) when he is expected to sing tracks from his album and his number one, a cover of OneRepublic's "Something I Need".

Carly Woodward, from The Townhouse, said she was delighted that the venue had secured such a well known name.

"Our exclusive event will be limited to 80 guests and will include a three course meal, support entertainment and a meet and great opportunity," she said.

# Aubrey Kirkham

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Callum and Lucas

# Students celebrate educational success

TWO students at the Marches Sixth Form in Oswestry are celebrating educational success.

Callum Jones and Lucas Giannasi have been offered a conditional Bangor University entrance scholarship and a conditional Aberystwyth University bursary, respectively.

They achieved these by choosing and writing two essays online.

Both students are thankful for the Marches Sixth Form support and look forward to continuing their studies at university.

Callum has been awarded a conditional £3,000 entrance scholarship

for the School of Law at Bangor University and is the only student to receive the scholarship for the law programme at Bangor.

Lucas has received a conditional £300 bursary at Aberystwyth University in the school of history.

Gareth Jones, assistant head of

Sixth Form at the Marches School, said: "As a Sixth Form, we are very proud of Callum and Lucas – they fully deserve the scholarships and bursaries offered to them. We wish them the very best for their forthcoming A-level examinations and life at higher education".

# Plea made for more health funding for Mid Wales

Report by Sue Austin

**THE Welsh government is being urged to put more money into health care in Mid Wales to marry up with the improvements planned in hospital services across the Shropshire border.**

People living in north Powys receive hospital care from the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals Trust, with treatment in both the Royal Shrewsbury and Princess Royal Hospitals.

Glyn Davies, MP for Montgomeryshire, has welcomed news that NHS England will allocate £300 million to transform one of Shropshire's two hospitals into a centre for emergency care and the other into a centre for planned care. Now he says that commitment has to be underpinned by funding from the Welsh government to improve non urgent and primary care for the residents of Mid Wales. "There are some who say there should be a general hospital in Mid Wales but that is not going to happen," he said. "Where we do need investment is in the community hospitals in Powys."

Heritage Opera is presenting Così fan tutte by Mozart on Sunday.

It will be the fifth production that the company and its cast of six has brought to Oswestry in the past three years. Those between the ages of seven and 18 can go to the production free, with an adult.

Mike Coppock, who is one of those behind the move to bring opera to the town, said Così fan tutte is a hilarious morality tale.

He said: "This production is very accessible to youngsters, and this is a great opportunity for parents to bring the kids aged seven to 18 for free to experience professional live opera."

Call (01691) 238227 for more details.

## Youngsters get free opera offer

CHILDREN and young people could have their first taste of opera, for free, when a professional touring opera company returns to Oswestry.

Heritage Opera is presenting Così fan tutte by Mozart on Sunday.

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Call (01691) 238227 for more details.

## Tourism drive by business



Mark Hooper, Maggie Morris and Clive Knowles from the British Ironwork Centre

AN Oswestry firm has been helping promote Shropshire on the national tourism stage.

Exhibitors from all over the UK and Europe took part in the British Tourism and Travel Show at the NEC Birmingham.

Clive Knowles from the British Ironwork Centre at Aston near Oswestry attended the show in support of tourism in Shropshire.

Also at the event was Mark Hooper from

Sabrina Boat and Maggie Morris from Shrewsbury Tourism.

Mr Knowles said: "There's no better stage for presenting Shropshire to the wider tourism industry."

"Interest in the county town and the county as a whole was very exciting."

"Shropshire has so much to offer."

"This is a good positive effort to ensure Shropshire and Shrewsbury are considered by all."

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# New housing go-ahead leads to road safety calls

Report by Sue Austin

**TRAFFIC improvements must be put in place in residential areas before up to 600 new homes are built in Oswestry, a councillor has said.**

A 20 mile per hour zone has been suggested for the new development, part of the Sustainable Urban Extension for Oswestry.

One councillor, who would rather see physical traffic calming around Middleton Road and Cabin Lane, had talks with Shropshire Council's leader last week to press for urgent action. Councillor Clare Aspinall said last week's granting of permission for the homes between Shrewsbury Road and eastern Oswestry had been expected.

J Ross Developments, which is behind the scheme, was given seven years to build the housing, 10 per cent of which must be affordable homes.

But traffic safety was a concern, Councillor Aspinall said.

"There are residents very worried that construction vehicles and traffic from the development will use the existing road network which is already very busy," she said.

"Middleton Road, which is one way onto Cabin Lane, is already an official area of community concern and is on Shropshire Council's priority list for traffic calming measures.

"We also have automatic traffic count equipment going in on Aston Way and Prince Charles Way in the coming weeks to look at traffic volume and speed.

"The developers have said the main access will be via a new roundabout onto Shrewsbury Road. But that road already gets clogged up and human nature is such that drivers will find alternatives."

Councillor Aspinall who met Shropshire Council leader Peter Nutting after permission was granted, said there were also worries about safety on Cabin Lane, the spine road through eastern Oswestry.

She said: "We are pressing for a crossing on Cabin Lane for children going to the Meadows School which will see a big increase in numbers when the houses are built.

"Residents have already had pets killed on that road. How long will it be before a child gets hit? It is an accident waiting to happen."

An open bowls competition, organised by 17-year-old member Kieran Jones, is being held at the club this month.

## Bowls club boosted by bequest cash

A VILLAGE bowling club has been able to replace its dilapidated toilets thanks to the generosity of a bequest fund.

Llanymynech Bowling Club was given a grant from the Mary Hignett Bequest Fund, which is overseen by Oswestry Rotary Club, to upgrade its facilities.

Club chairman Kevin Jones said: "Without the likes of these funds, the club members do not have the financial capabilities, as with most clubs, to finance such a venture. Bequests like this can of course be a lifeline to any club, to promote and ensure its future."

The fund was set up for the promotion of arts and sports in the Oswestry area thanks to the bequest of Mary Hignett, a well known Oswestry naturalist and writer.

Llanymynech Bowling Club has more than 50 members ranging in age from 16 through to late 80s and six teams.

"The game is suitable for all generations, encouraging and allowing sociability for those otherwise alone. It also provides good regular exercise, even though at this stage of the year the games are being played in inclement weather," Mr Jones said.

## Artistic way to learn at school



Ken Skates meets children from Ysgol y Waun in Chirk and their teacher Amy Roberts. Chirk Town Councillor Frank Hemmings also visited the school.

AN Assembly Member spent the morning with schoolchildren near Oswestry to see first-hand how a Welsh Government programme is helping them learn.

Ciwyd South AM Ken Skates visited Ysgol y Waun in Chirk to hear more about the Lead Creative School Scheme, which is part-funded by the Arts Council for Wales.

Gwenfair Hughes, from the ACW, explained that Ysgol y Waun's project explored whether "a multi-arts, multi-sensory approach" can boost children's enthusiasm to write and said Years 4 and 5 have been busy developing their literacy skills through creative approaches.

Mr Skates said: "The project is about helping children learn through the arts and aims to promote new ways of working in schools.

"It was fascinating to see the pupils trying new things and they seemed to be thoroughly enjoying their work."

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## BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

It's really happening. The much-vaunted plan for 600 new homes on the outskirts of Oswestry is finally reality after Shropshire County Council planners gave their blessing for the massive development.

Sceptics had questioned whether the scheme put forward by local company J Ross Developments would ever come to fruition, particularly when objections fell on the table from Highways England. But with those objections now withdrawn planning committee members were happy to approve the exciting plans.

The housing scheme on the eastern edge of Oswestry, alongside the town's bypass, should be completed in the next seven years and will change the face of the town for ever. So, whether you like it or not it is going to happen after the government gave £9.3 million for road improvements.

The news is surely good for the town with much-needed affordable homes coming as part of the package and a population boost hopefully providing an economic upturn for troubled town centre businesses. And there will also be a nice sum of money going to Oswestry as part of the community infrastructure levy.

With links planned from the housing development to the soon-to-be-built innovation park things are beginning to look good for Oswestry again.

XXXX

Growth of the Green Party on Oswestry Town Council seems to be having an influence with plans revealed to launch a community energy scheme which could see solar panels installed on council-owned properties.

Six Green Party members now sit on the Town Council so it's little surprise the energy scheme has been put forward. Similar schemes have already been successfully launched in other parts of the country.

The council is keen to gauge how much support there is locally and will hold a public meeting on April 19. Looks like a very sensible move which would lead to the council being able to reduce its energy costs.

XXXX

Had to smile this week when queuing to get through the long-awaited roadworks at the Maesbury Road junction to see that the contractors had a sense of humour. To placate frustrated motorists caught up in the long queues they have erected signs saying "It's better to be late in this world than on time in the next." Like many other motorists I drove on with a chuckle.



Charles Ingram celebrating his £1m 'win' in 2001



Charles Ingram outside his home during the trial



Chris Tarrant hands the £1m cheque to Charles Ingram

# Tarrant insists quiz show cheat was never a 'victim'

**MARK ANDREWS reports on a play that casts doubt on the conviction of a man for a notorious TV fraud**

**TELEVISION** star Chris Tarrant has told people not to be taken in by a new stage play about former Shropshire schoolboy Charles Ingram, who was convicted of cheating on the quiz show *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire*.

The West End play *Quiz*, by James Graham, tells the story of how Ingram appeared to win the £1 million prize on the game show in 2001, before being disqualified and later convicted of fraud.

The play appears to cast doubt on the guilt of Ingram, his wife Diana and fellow contestant Tecwen Whittock, who were accused of helping him select the right answers by coughing. At the end of the show, the audience is invited to cast votes on whether they believe Ingram cheated or not.

But Tarrant, who was asking the questions when former Oswestry School pupil Ingram was in the hot seat, said he was in no doubt whatsoever that Ingram was guilty as charged.

The Ingrams were each handed 18-month suspended prison sentences, while Whittock was given a 12-month suspended sentence after being convicted at Southwark Crown Court in 2003.

Tarrant, who hosted the series from 1998 to 2014, said while the play made for good entertainment, people should not be fooled into believing Ingram was



Major Charles Ingram and his wife Diana were convicted of fraud

the victim of a miscarriage of justice.

Writing for a national newspaper, the broadcaster said Ingram should not be viewed as some sort of modern-day Robin Hood.

He said: "To settle any doubts you might have about the character at the centre of the play, he was as guilty as sin.

"You need to know this in advance, because I've seen the show, and the cast go all out to portray the central character, Major Charles Ingram, and his wife Diana as innocent parties."

At the time Ingram was a serving major in the Royal Engineers, but was ordered to resign his commission after

his conviction. Later that year he was convicted of insurance fraud and given a conditional discharge.

Tarrant said he remembered Ingram, whose wife and brother-in-law had both already appeared on the show, as seeming "nice but dim".

Diana had already won £32,000 on the show, and Tarrant said he felt sorry for Ingram having to follow in his wife's footsteps.

"There was a lot of pressure on him to match his missus, and he didn't have the brains to do it," he said.

"My fears for him increased when the questions were still easy ones and the prize money stood at just £1,000.

"I asked him: 'The Normans, who conquered England in 1066, spoke which language?'. He floundered. Was it Danish? Perhaps Norwegian? Probably not German. Or maybe French? After a lot of hesitation, he plumped for French. Which, as any schoolboy knows, is the right answer. That pattern was repeated twice more: total bewilderment followed by a lucky guess."

He said suspicions grew when a sound technician noticed the equipment had been affected by intermittent bursts of interference, and the studio manager reported a member of the audience causing constant disruption, by getting up to use his mobile phone. The man turned out to be another of Diana Ingram's brothers.

Ingram later wrote a novel detailing the hardship he and his family suffered following the conviction.

## Ham-fisted

But Tarrant said he felt little sympathy for Ingram. "Some may feel poor old Charlie Ingram has paid a high price for his ham-fisted attempt to cheat at a quiz game," he said. "But this was a scheme to defraud a public company out of £1 million. Anyone who tried to steal that from a bank would be looking at a long sentence."

Graham said he chose to make the play because he was fascinated by the concept of truth.

"We're in a climate where we are all getting very anxious and nervous, and it's hard to maintain an objective sense of reality," he said. "What was the reality of the coughing scandal? I always enjoy finding fun ways to explore these sorts of themes and I think this episode provided me with one.

"There are still differing opinions about what was real and not real about the whole thing, and the trial itself turned into a great piece of theatre."

## TALKING POINT

By Diane Davies

**WITH** temperatures creeping up the thermometer, daffodils in the garden and a promise that spring might actually be here, it is time to reflect on this miserable wintertime.

Snow, wind, rain, floods – we have had it all. I was waiting for four horsemen to come galloping over the hill as the country ground to a halt.

So what have we learned during these bleak winter days? Personally, I have discovered the following 10 things:

1. There is a Beast of the East. He has rarely troubled us in the past but after the first rampage across the country he got a taste of mayhem and misery and decided to come back for more – this time sending the mini beasts who were also quite fearsome.

2. There are different kinds of snow. Apparently you can have 3ft of snow mounting up in the back garden but may not be able to build a decent snowman. Snow blown in from the east seems very fine and not 'wet'.

3. Our country is no longer equipped to deal with rain or thawing snow. Any persistent rain will lead to flood alerts and sewage floating into someone's back garden.

4. Britain's roads are in no state to handle bad weather. Whatever the weather may bring over winter we can be sure that we will be left with roads resembling the surface of the Moon. And there is nothing a pothole loves more than a puddle to hide in – excellent cover for wrecking tyres.

5. Despite snow, black ice or flood water there will always be one know-it-all, arrogant motorist on the road who will drive almost up your exhaust pipe – because a bit of bad weather isn't going to stop them.

6. In snow, black ice or flood water there will always be one terrified driver who should not have left the house and is clutching the steering wheel in fear, barely clocking up 10mph.

7. It does not actually have to snow for schools to shut, the mere threat is enough for the circulation of 'school closure' texts.

8. The slightest incline that you have never even noticed before becomes equivalent to the Eiger for any HGVs or buses when covered in snow/ice.

9. HGVs and buses should not go out when roads are covered in snow.

10. However much warning we are given, however prepared councils claim to be, when bad weather comes there's only one response from us Brits – panic!

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## WHO GETS THE DOG WHEN WE SEPARATE?

**Q:** I have recently separated from my long term partner, and as you can imagine, there are a lot of issues that now need to be resolved. Although it may seem silly, one of the most difficult issues we have discussed to date is who gets to keep Hulk, our French bulldog. I know that in the majority of separation cases it is money that people argue over but, for me, keeping Hulk is all I care about. My former partner is not however prepared to give Hulk up and she says under no circumstances will she agree to me keeping him.

**A:** You will probably be surprised to learn that this situation is not as unusual as you think it is. You are not the first, nor will you be the last to consult a solicitor in respect of what happens to your pets upon separation. However, English and Welsh Law determines that pets, including dogs, are considered as objects in a separation. The general position as to who takes possession of the object, i.e. in your case Hulk, would therefore fall down to proof of ownership.

In respect of what this may mean for you on a practical basis, it may be worth considering who purchased Hulk, who cares for him, who pays for his food and vets bills, who controls him and who is generally considered to be his owner? If Hulk was a gift to you, you would of course argue that he does belong to you.

Understandably this answer is perhaps not in practical terms as straight forward as you had hoped. Moving forward, your best option would probably be to make an appointment to meet with a specialist solicitor to discuss your options.

Further information relating to this question is available from Alison Peters, a Partner with GHP Legal. For an appointment visit [www.ghplegal.com](http://www.ghplegal.com) or contact one of our offices: Oswestry 01691 659194, Chirk 01691 777949, Wrexham 01978 291456, Llangollen 01978 860313. We offer free legal diagnostic clinics (no appointment necessary). In Oswestry, Wednesdays 12noon-3pm for Personal Injury, Employment & Family matters. In Wrexham, Mondays 9.30am-12noon for Employment matters, 12noon-3pm for Personal Injury & Family matters. GHP Legal is authorised and regulated by the SRA 51566, and Lexcel Accredited.



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# Speed dials in cars can be wrong

EVERY motorist should stick to the speed limit.

But as the law allows a speedometer to be up to 10 per cent out it means a motorist could think he is driving at 30mph and his vehicle not in contravention of the law.

He could actually be driving at 33mph because his speedo is showing 10 per cent under the actual speed. It would be entirely unfair and unjust if the motorist was subject to some penalty in this circumstance.

Not only that, but I believe if the motorist took the matter (a ticket) to court it would be declared there was a clash between the two pieces of legislation and the case thrown out. There are countless motorists who speed well over 10 per cent of the speed limit. When I am doing 30mph on a 30mph limit road, and there is room to overtake me, many motorists come past doing at least 40mph or faster. I mention the example of Woore, a 30mph limit area

where motorists speed through at up to 80mph. The police need to target these speeders – rather than those doing 33mph in a 30mph area. Persecuting (note the use of this word) motorists for doing two-three mph over the limit will create bad will for the police and show they are not using their resources in the best way.

**RICHARD CAMP**  
Wellington

# 20mph limit is beneficial but idea was voted down

I ATTENDED the meeting of Shropshire Council's Scrutiny Committee chaired by Councillor Butler in order to hear whether the council would progress, in line with recommendations from the World Health Organisation, 20mph zones in Shropshire.

The councillors were informed that a general 20mph speed limit on residential streets (there would be exceptions) was now in place in 50 council areas in England and is giving 15 million residents a huge improvement in safety and security and quality of life.

They were told documented evidence showed the implementation of 20mph led to over 20 per cent reductions in collisions and it saved taxpayers' money because there was no longer a need for traffic calming measures, such as humps and bumps, with the added benefit that traffic moved more smoothly as a result.

It also means significantly reduced costs for our NHS because walking and cycling become more attractive in a less car-dominated environment thus reducing air pollution as well as checking illnesses which can stem from or be aggravated by inactivity, such as dementia, type 2 diabetes, obesity, heart disease, depression and some cancers. Not one councillor disagreed with the long list of benefits associated with 20mph and yet when a proposal was made to progress this policy further towards implementation all the Conservative councillors voted that down. This action by Conservative councillors means that, for the foreseeable future, Shropshire's communities are stuck with a much higher risk of death and serious injury on Shropshire's roads, and a reduced quality of life in our residential areas.

**HILARY WENDT**  
Co-ordinator for the  
South Shropshire  
Green Party

# Just release the Corbyn file

A FORMER Cold War spy has reported that Jeremy Corbyn was paid as a Communist Intelligence 'asset' and was in collaboration with the Soviet-Era Czechoslovakian Intelligence Agency in the 1980s.

There are some that will dismiss this information about Jeremy Corbyn as rubbish. Like Clive Lewis, who is calling for a press clampdown to stop embarrassing stories about Corbyn being published.

Jezza says the information has no credibility and flatly denies it. If he has nothing to worry about then why not come clean and allow the release of his file from the archives of ex-East Germany secret police?

**JACKIE LEWIS**  
Pattingham

# What happened to Bailey Head water fountain?



If this image looks a bit iffy, then it's because this is a still taken from an 8mm film. It was emailed in by John Powell of Oswestry who says it was taken at the Bailey Head around 1940. Of particular interest is the communal water fountain and pump. "That was removed at about the same time that the Bailey Head was refurbished," he said. Does anybody know where it went?

# Prime Minister needs to up her game in talks

IS Theresa May out of her depth or is she just the worst communicator ever to be Prime Minister?

Recently the PM met a deputation of Japanese business leaders worried about Brexit. Starting the meeting she fumbled with her notes several times and told the deputation not to be concerned about Brexit because the UK and Japan would negotiate a wonderful trade agreement.

It was an embarrassingly weak, poorly delivered and uninformed statement. She didn't seem to understand that Japanese companies have invested heavily in the UK to sell into the EU. Toyota will not be manufacturing cars in Derby to ship back to the Far East!

Japanese companies manufacture in the Far East to sell to the Far East, manufacture in the UK to sell to the EU. The Japanese like the UK, want to be here. But as the Japanese ambassador said at the end of the meeting – Japanese companies have to make a profit to stay in the UK.

**BILL MCCLEMENTS**  
Apley

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Readers' Letters,  
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### EMAIL

ian.stjohn@  
shropshirestar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

# Just a thought on the Olympic Games

WHILE full of admiration for the athletes at the Winter Olympics for their bravery and dedication, one has to wonder about training for 11 years on a tea tray while hurtling round sheets of ice at speeds of 80mph plus.

If they do not win any medals they should at least be in line for a Sir Arthur Treeb-Greebling award.

Sir Arthur, via Peter Cook, was well known for trying to teach ravens to fly underwater.

**PETER STEGGLES**  
Longnor

# Do the math on what all this means to the UK

IT is noticeable that Nick Clegg's little helpers are becoming busy again, writing defeatist letters to the press to tell us what a disaster awaits us with Brexit and what rosy economic prospects we are abandoning by leaving the EU, and how it's still not too late to change our minds and stay in.

The falseness of their arguments lies in the assumption that the crucial statistic is national economic growth. This is, of course, wrong: the important figure is per capita economic growth. Even if their argument that overall economic growth was destined to be greater within the EU (and if this were the case Greece would have no worries), if all our national economic growth is absorbed by unrestricted immigration, and the concomitant reduction in wage rates and increase in accommodation costs, the economy might be growing but ordinary people become increasingly worse off. "Do the math" as our American friends would say.

**DAVID BURTON**  
Wellington

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Surveyed hospital staff are happier

STAFF survey results have improved at the trust running Shropshire's two main hospitals in the past five years. Members of staff from Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH), which runs Telford's Princess Royal Hospital and Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, took part in the NHS national staff survey.

A total of 57 per cent of staff in 2017 said they often or always looked forward to going to work – a rise of 12 per cent from 2012.

Last year, two thirds of the staff said the care of patients was SaTH's top priority, compared to just over half in 2012.

There was also a 10 per cent increase in the number of staff recommending the organisation as a place of work.

Tool history will be in the spotlight

TREFONEN Garden Club's April meeting features a talk by Bill Laws on the history of garden tools.

A quirky subject, organisers say this promises to be an entertaining and inspiring evening.

Bill is a much published author.

He has written for the Guardian and the Telegraph, numerous books including RHS Tales from the Tool Shed and made contributions to BBC Radio 4's Ramblings, the Wall Street Journal, BBC's History Magazine, Who Do You Think You Are? and CountryFile to name but a few.

His Fifty Plants that Changed the Course of History is now in its eighth edition.

It's also competition time, the first of the year, a single flower stem.

The club will meet at 7.30pm on Thursday next week at the village hall.

Town council is in the running for top awards

Report by Sue Austin

A TOWN council's decision to take over a day centre for older people and looking after its streets and pavements has seen it nominated for two prestigious awards.

Welshpool Town Council has been named a finalist in the UK National Go Procurement Awards 2018 for both the Day Centre and Street Scene departments.

The awards are presented in Manchester on April 24.

The major award ceremony will see the relatively small council up against county councils and Welsh and national government.

Mayor Councillor Stephen Kaye said: "I am pleased we have been recognised again this year.

"As a town council we find ourselves shortlisted among county councils, health boards, Welsh Government, National Government and others."

He added: "It is not bad for a little town council."

Town Clerk Robert Robinson said: "It is a credit to the staff and councillors.

"These awards do not mean we are necessarily better than anyone else but that we may be doing something right."

The Ann Holloway Centre provides day care for those who need support during the daytime and is open on weekdays.

It has about 24 clients most days with a reduced number on Fridays, which is a special day for those with dementia.

There is a range of activities on offer with lunch cooked in the kitchens.

The council also operates a meals on wheels service from the centre.

Golfers swing into national finals



Rhys Edkins, Victoria Raffle and Connor Owen from Oswestry School

OSWESTRY School senior golf team comprising Rhys Edkins, Connor Owen and Victoria Raffle has qualified for the National Finals of the Independent Schools Golf Association (ISGA) competition.

The team travelled to Carden Park Golf Club to play Rydal Penrhos School in the Area Cup Final of the ISGA and after some challenging play over the day Oswestry School won 2-1.

Established in 2006, the ISGA runs a series of events for independent schools throughout the UK.

The main competition is a knockout in which the UK is split into 17 areas. This culminates in a national final, which has previously been held at a different golf course each year.

The Oswestry School team will now go on to play the top 21 schools in the UK in the ISGA National Final on April 30 on the Nicklaus Course at St Mellion International Resort in Plymouth.

Director of sport at Oswestry School Dominic Bradburne said: "The team played well and managed to beat some very stiff competition after a very closely fought match.

"We wish them all luck in the finals on April 30."

Viewers of child porn to be targeted by new team

POLICE in Wales are warning people viewing sexually explicit images of children that the next knock at their door could be officers from a new team set up to keep children safe from harm.

Operation Net Safe has been launched across Wales, with South Wales Police, Gwent Police, Dyfed Powys Police and North Wales Police taking part, with the aim of safeguarding children by detecting abuse and prosecuting offenders for the possession and distribution of indecent images of children online.

The approach brings together police officers and highly skilled digital forensics staff. Each week the specialist, dedicated teams use the latest digital investigative techniques to identify where in Wales illegal images are being viewed, before using the intelligence to apply to a magistrate for a search warrant to allow the police and digital forensic experts to raid a home, seize evidence and arrest those involved. As part of the operation, police are working closely with child protection charity, the Lucy Faithfull Foundation, whose Stop it Now! Campaign directs offenders, potential offenders, and their concerned loved ones to a confidential and anonymous helpline, and self-help resources to enable them to proactively address their behaviour. The message from each of the four police forces in Wales to on-line offenders and potential offenders is simple – seek the help available to you or you will be caught and brought to justice.

Alun Michael, Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales, said: "Operation Net Safe addresses our top priority to protect the most vulnerable in our communities."

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## Police force celebrates a landmark anniversary

THE police force which serves the Welshpool area has marked its 50th anniversary.

On April 1, 1968, Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire Constabulary, the Mid Wales Constabulary and the Pembrokeshire Police came together to form Dyfed-Powys Constabulary, making it the largest police force geographically in England and Wales.

The name changed to Dyfed-Powys Police in 1974.

Over the next year a number of events are planned to mark the special anniversary.

Officers and staff, serving and retired, will have the opportunity to come together to share their memories and experiences about life in the force over the decades.

Over the last 50 years the force has seen a lot of changes including the uniform worn, the locations of police stations, the improvements in technology and the make-up of the police family.

Chief Constable Mark Collins said: "Over the past 50 years, we have seen the landscape of policing change in order to improve the service we provide to our diverse communities."

"However, while much has changed, the determination and commitment of officers and staff to keeping our communities safe has always remained the same."

"I would like to thank all the officers and staff who have worked diligently over the years to ensure that the Dyfed-Powys area is a safe place to work and live."

"I would also like to thank the communities we serve for their support and willingness to work with the force to ensure the service we provide remains at a high level."

# Volunteers are needed to help at history centre

Report by Sue Austin

**A HISTORY centre at a Victorian Workhouse building is appealing for volunteers to help visitors get more from the project.**

Members of the Dolydd History Group at Llanfyllin's Workhouse say more than 2,000 individual visitors are estimated to have been to the centre since it opened in 2016 with a further 1,500 in group and school visits.

The history centre, which opened thanks to a £38,000 Heritage Lottery Fund, now hopes more volunteers will help, especially by giving up an hour or two of time, particularly at weekends, to help visitors.

Trustee John Hainsworth said: "Some visitors were surprised to find the history centre unmanned, even at holiday times. In fact the centre and the self-guided tour have been designed so that people can look round on their own, and signage has been improved to make this clearer. But the group would really like to have more volunteers this year to welcome visitors and answer their questions."

He said the centre wanted to expand its work with schools and was looking for volunteers with basic sewing skills to help create simple pinafores, waistcoats and caps.

He said: "Ideally the centre needs its own education officer - are there any retired teachers out there?"

The centre is also planning a Family History Day on June 9.

Anyone interested in helping out with this or with any other activities at the Workhouse can contact John Hainsworth at history@llanfyl.linworkhouse.org or on (01691) 860549.

## Takeaway is backing good causes



Lynsey Kilvert, Hope House fundraiser, Alex Sevim, USA Fried Chicken owner and Maria Jones, Midlands Air Ambulance fundraiser

USA Fried Chicken in Oswestry has become the first Oswestry takeaway to ask customers to join it in supporting two local charities when ordering from them online.

When visiting its website to order takeaway, customers will be greeted with an option to donate either £1, £3 or £5 to either Hope House Children's Hospice or Midlands Air Ambulance Charity.

Customers ordering in person will also be asked if they would like to show their support by making a donation. Every few months USA Fried Chicken will issue both charities with a cheque for the donations.

The fundraising initiative went live a couple of weeks ago and donations are already being made by generous customers.

Owner, Alex Sevim, moved to Oswestry 14 years ago.

Starting with his first business, Oswestry Kebab House, his business soon grew when he opened USA Chicken in Willow Street.

Hope House fundraiser Lynsey Kilvert and Air Ambulance fundraiser Maria Jones visited Alex and were thrilled to be greeted with a cheque for £50 for each charity from the business to start the fundraising.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### The life of Dame Agnes to be told

THE Llanymynech History Society will be "On the trail of Agnes Hunt" at its meeting on Monday.

Meeting at 7.30pm at Llanymynech Presbyterian Church Hall the evening will feature one of the founders of Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital - Dame Agnes Hunt.

The presentation will be given by Marie Carter, who is archives officer for the hospital. It will use both published and unpublished sources to tell the life of its founder and the history of the hospital.

A planned March meeting, a talk by John Pinfold on Llanymynech Racecourse, had to be postponed because of snow. It has now been rescheduled for June 18.

There is no annual subscription, simply a £3 charge for each meeting.

### Inquest opens on caravan tragedy

AN inquest has opened into the death of a man in a caravan.

Dean John Lee, 43, was found dead in his caravan in Whittington, near Oswestry, following a fire on December 24, 2017.

Police and the fire service were called at 8.40am after witnesses noticed a fire at Mr Lee's caravan.

Investigations have ruled out any suspicious circumstances.

A statement read out at the inquest described him as a "transient" man with an independent lifestyle.

The hearing was adjourned until July 11.

### Flower club to meet

THE next meeting of Oswestry and Borders Flower Club will take place on Tuesday next week at Morda Village Hall when Lieneke Van Der Veen will give a talk titled Spring Influenced by Continental Styles.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Housing bid turned down

A SCHEME to build three homes has been rejected by councillors, despite being recommended for approval.

NL & KM Griffiths of Tanyfron, Llanfair Caereinion, had applied to Powys County Council to build three homes and a sewage treatment plant on land south of Broncafnant Lane.

The application was called in because it is outside the development boundary. Llanfair Caereinion Community Council supported the application when the authority met in November and planners had recommended it for approval.

However at a recent planning meeting, it was refused by councillors.

### Broadcaster to lose funding

WELSH language broadcaster S4C will lose its UK government funding by 2022.

A review, led by Ewyn Ogwen Williams, has presented a package of reforms for the channel, which films a host of its shows in Mid Wales, to deliver change to make it a better organisation.

As part of the recommendations in the review, the Welsh Government has pledged to continue funding of £6.672 million for a further two years, to give S4C the certainty to deliver the reforms.

However after that, the channel will be funded entirely by a licence fee from 2022.

The review found the government should update S4C's public service remit to include digital and online services.

# Vulnerable veterans will get extra support

Report by Sue Austin

### SERVING armed forces personnel and veterans in custody in Dyfed-Powys are to receive support from a new initiative.

Dyfed-Powys Police, through the Armed Forces Community Covenants, has been working with a new veterans charity to support potentially vulnerable people and divert individuals from a life of crime.

The Veterans Gateway is an organisation that offers 24-hour support and advice to service personnel by signposting them to the most appropriate agencies specific to their circumstances. In 2017, about seven per cent of the people arrested in Dyfed-Powys Police area said they had previously served in the armed forces, prompting police to work with the Armed Forces Community Covenants to identify suitable support.

Chief Inspector Paul Jones, head of custody, said far too often people found themselves in police custody where early interventions could have prevented police involvement. The reasons for them being in custody were often linked to other underlying problems he said.

He said: "Having previously served in the Royal Navy, I understand the difficulties of resettling into civilian life.

"A number of armed forces veterans who find themselves arrested are actually vulnerable members of our communities who are struggling to cope with that adaption."

## AM speaks of growing dental crisis



Russell George with representatives from the British Dental Association

MONTGOMERYSHIRE Assembly Member, Russell George, has sponsored an event hosted by the British Dental Association to mark World Oral Health Day.

Meeting at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay, the event sought to raise awareness of the importance of good oral health.

Mr George also took the opportunity of highlighting the current crisis in both the recruitment and retention of dental practitioners in Mid Wales and the lack of access for new patients.

Speaking after the event, Mr George said: "This is a growing problem for many people in Mid Wales with only 20 per cent of dental practices taking on new NHS patients and some areas also see long orthodontic waiting lists of upwards of 4 years. This is compounded by a recruitment and retention crisis here in Mid Wales with practice owners having to offer larger salaries to attract associates to rural areas and dentists having to register twice to practice in both England and Wales.

"This is not sustainable in the long term."

## Advice is offered on how to make the right call

DYFED-POWYS Police has issued guidance to people in the region on how to make the right call when contacting the police.

The force has launched its Make the Right Call campaign, to make it easier for members of the public to know when and how to contact the police, and who to contact when reporting matters that are not for police, such as stray dogs, fly-tipping and parking problems.

The campaign also aims to make sure all members of the public are aware of the 101 non-emergency number and how to use it correctly. To help people decide if they need to call 101 or another organisation, such as the council or Natural Resources Wales, a new 'Contact Us' section, has been added to the Dyfed-Powys Police website.

It holds icons which, once clicked on, give information on who best to contact about that issue, as well as contact numbers, online reporting forms and links to partner websites or information pages.

It's hoped the move will not only improve the service people receive when they call 101 but also ease the pressure on the Force Communication Centre, where all emergency and non-emergency calls are taken.

Chief Inspector Nicky Carter, force communication centre manager, said: "While we encourage the reporting of crime and anti-social behaviour in order to help us keep our communities safe, we frequently receive a high number of calls that are simply not a police matter."



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# Club opens its doors to give youngsters a swing at golf

**THE Masters may be over but youngsters across the Oswestry area have been taking the opportunity to try their hand at golf over the Easter half term holidays.**

New volunteer at Mile End Golf Club, Bob Grovestock-Thompson, and PGA club pro James Davies have teamed up with the New Saints Football Club, to provide golf sessions for youngsters around Oswestry over the past week.

**By Jonny Drury**

After the masters in Augusta finished on Sunday, youngsters were out enjoying free coaching sessions at Gobowen Playing Fields on Monday in a bid to become the next Patrick Reed or Rickie Fowler.

Other sessions were being held on Wednesday from 3pm to 5pm on Cae Glas Park and on Friday from 3pm to 5pm on Gatacre Playing Fields.

Further free coaching sessions will also be open to youngsters up to 18 at Mile End

Golf Club on April 11, 18 and 25 from 5pm to 7pm, as the club looks to increase youngsters' participation in the sport.

On top of the Easter half term sessions, Bob, who has previous experience of engaging with young people through fostering children, is holding 'have a go' golf sessions at Mile End from 9am to 3pm for £2.50 at any time from now until June.

For more information on the sessions and to get involved in the sport, please call the club on 01691 671246 or visit [www.mileendgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.mileendgolfclub.co.uk).



Millie Watkin, six, and Michael Jones, seven, with Anne Grovestock-Thompson at Mile End Golf Club

## Top award for eco-friendly caravan park

A HOLIDAY park situated next to the Dyfi Osprey Project in Mid Wales has received a special distinction honour from the David Bellamy Conservation Award Scheme.

Morben Isaf Holiday Park at Derwenlas, near Machynlleth, owned by Salop Leisure, has been honoured for its partnership with Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust's Cors Dyfi nature reserve, where the osprey project is located.

The David Bellamy Conservation Award Scheme recognises holiday parks that protect and enhance Britain's natural environment. The park has held a gold award since 2015 and is also "Honey Bee Friendly".

Sarah Lewis, who manages the park which has holiday home and touring pitches, with her husband, Ben, said they were delighted to win the accolade.

Since the osprey project was established in 2009, the park has provided support in many ways - mains water supply, accommodation for volunteers who guard the nest, car parking and manpower.

It has also built bridges and pathways to make it easier for holiday home and tourist owners to visit the project. Many of the owners are project volunteers.

Rufus Bellamy, said: "The park should take a lot of credit for its positive and enthusiastic approach to this partnership, which is the epitome of good neighbourliness."

Sarah said: "Staff, holiday home owners and visitors all contribute to making our park a repeat gold award winner, of which we are very proud. Participating in the scheme means that we always evaluate ideas and plans to ensure that the ethos of conservation is applied at all times. The variety of wildlife and birdlife seen on the park is amazing."

## Council to clear piles of rubbish

A MAJOR road will be hit with a series of lane closures as workers attempt to clear a build up of rubbish on the verge.

Parts of the A483 near the Shropshire border with North Wales will be closed for two weeks as Wrexham Borough Council attempts to deal with an increasing problem of road side litter.

The authority has been inundated with complaints on social media regarding the amount of rubbish on the side of the A483 from Halton Roundabout near Chirk to the Cheshire boundary.

The council has now decided to take action and a

series of planned lane closures will take place for two weeks, up to April 24, to allow staff to clear the roadside.

The authority has also appealed to residents and visitors driving on the road not to throw litter from their cars while the work is taking place.

Councillor David A Bithell, lead member for environment and transport said: "I hope residents and visitors appreciate the costs incurred by councils when collecting litter, at a time of great financial pressures, and we ask members of the public to please dispose of their litter properly."

## Wild weasel pilot returns

A RETIRED colonel from the US Air Force is making a return visit to Welshpool to talk at the Town Hall about his experiences during the Vietnam War.

Colonel Richard Graham will speak about his experiences flying Phantom jets as a Wild Weasel pilot, which involved missions to identify and destroy surface to air missile sites.

The talk on April 20 starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10.

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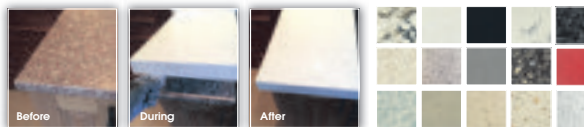
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## Fee changes at popular car park

WALKERS arriving at a popular Snowdonia car park have been shocked to find some parking fees have doubled.

The Pen-y-Pass car park used to have a £5 rate for those staying up to four hours, and £10 for the entire day.

But the Snowdonia National Park Authority has scrapped the £5 charge with motorists now having to pay the £10 for however long they stay.

The car park is at the start of two of the most popular walking routes to the summit of Snowdon – the Miner's and the Pyg Tracks. One of the best used car parks, it has spaces for 80 vehicles and is often full by 8am, particularly at weekends.

As well as getting rid of the £5 charge, the park authority has also brought in a £10 overnight charge. Previously it had been free to park overnight.

It means those staying at the nearby hostel or camping in the vicinity are now faced with an extra cost. Alternatives include a £5 charge for using roadside parking places about a mile further down the pass and walking, or the £5 Nant Peris car park and then using the Snowdon Sherpa bus. The tariff at all other car parks for stays of up to four hours is £3, with a daily rate until midnight of £6.

Emyr Williams, chief executive of the national park authority said the money raised from parking is used to keep the footpaths in working order.

The National Park's budget from the Welsh government has been cut by an equivalent of five per cent a year for two years.

## Charity gets top award for healthcare

PATIENTS living with Motor Neurone Disease are getting "exceptional dedication to care and support" from a Shropshire charity, a national association has said.

Severn Hospice and MND specialist therapist, Lisa Sievwright, have received Extra Mile awards from the Motor Neurone Disease Association in recognition of their approach to care and support of those living with the condition.

Motor Neurone Disease is one of the most common reasons for patients with a non-cancer diagnosis to be referred to the charity for specialist support each year.

Paul Cronin, chief executive at Severn Hospice, said: "We are extremely proud of Dr Claire Stockdale and her team in receiving this prestigious award which reflects their dedication; their compassion and the excellent clinical care they provide."

Dr Stockdale, a consultant in palliative medicine and MND lead at Severn Hospice, said: "None of us work for rewards or acknowledgement like this but it is very satisfying to know that what we take for granted is appreciated and makes a difference."

## Campaign asks to think about bikes

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to help reduce the number of injuries and deaths on roads across the region.

Think Bike is aimed at motorcyclists and other road users and has been launched by Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police Safer Roads Partnership. Over the past three years in the Warwickshire and West Mercia force areas, 46 people were killed and 557 seriously injured following collisions involving motorcycles.

The campaign is targeting both motorcyclists and car drivers with the aim of increasing general awareness. Roadside posters are being put on key routes in the region where collisions have occurred, and as part of the campaign, the partnership is targeting bikers who haven't ridden during the winter months and is encouraging them to make a few simple safety checks on their bike.

## Picture focus



The Declaration of the new High Sheriff of Shropshire at Palmers Hall, Ludlow



Rhoderick Swire, centre, parades to the ceremony for the Declaration of the High Sheriff



Rhoderick Swire accepts the Chain of Office from retiring High Sheriff Charles Lillis, right

# Sheriff hopes to put smaller charities into the spotlight

Special report by Shirley Tart

**RHODERICK Swire has spoken of his pride at being Shropshire's new high sheriff.**

With wife Georgina, he has moved into one of the oldest secular and leading roles in the county.

The installation of a Sheriff in Nomination is a significant and moving ceremony and Shropshire has been blessed down the years to have been served by some fine people who have truly made a difference.

Principal formal duties of high sheriffs today include attendance at royal visits in the county and support for Her Majesty's high court judges when on circuit.

These days the sheriffs play an increasingly active and supportive role within their counties in relation to the police and emergency services and in lending encouragement to public sector agencies like probation and prison services and to voluntary sector organisations involved in crime reduction and social cohesion.

They may also offer encouragement to those supporting the voluntary sector and folk in need.

### Honour

He says: "I am very much looking forward to the year and meeting as many people and organisations as possible. It is a great honour."

The busy couple live in the middle of historic Ludlow and can also boast the most wonderful gardens which are sometimes open to the public – on July 29 this year, they will be open in aid of the Red Cross.

Their much-loved old dogs, Reggie who is 11 and Tilly, aged 13, feature big time in their lives. And they also have three children and seven grandchildren aged between one-and-a-half and nine – son Hugh and his family live in London while Hattie and Milly with their husbands and children, live in Shropshire and all are well committed to supporting county life.

Since both Rhoddy and Georgina have previous high sheriffs in their families, they do indeed follow a proud tradition.

Rhoddy explained how he wanted to do everything he could to support and promote his home county.

He recalled: "I started out as a chartered accountant because I couldn't think what I wanted to do when I finished my degree at Birmingham University.

"I passed all my exams and then went out to Hong Kong where I worked for a bit for



The new High Sheriff of Shropshire, Rhoderick Swire, at home with his dogs in Ludlow

accountants Peat Marwick before joining the Swire group."

While an executive in the group, as well as Hong Kong, he also worked in Sydney and London. During those early years, he met Georgina and the couple were eventually married back home in Much Wenlock.

Hugh was born overseas and they came back to England where the family continued to grow with their two daughters. In a full business life, Rhoddy also founded the company Pantheon, recognised as a top liner where private equity is concerned. In 1981 he joined GT Management to oversee and manage unquoted investments and lead the buy-out from GT.

Aware of the year ahead, he has pulled back from Pantheon and other business interests to

give the High Sheriff role a priority. The family are all supporting Rhoddy of course and he, in turn, has a firm idea of the special support he wants to give within the county.

While Sheriffs can do a great deal in promoting charities and any problem areas which need help as they visit many parts of the county, most of them take on particular causes as well. And Rhoddy and Georgina intend to bring small and local charities into the spotlight. Rhoddy says: "I want to do all I can to help local causes which have a significant impact. So I'm going to focus on the smaller and local charities because I think it's tough for them. I also want to establish a common fund for Shropshire."

In a wider role, Rhoddy is presently chair-

man of the Hereford Cathedral Perpetual Trust as well and keen that the wonderful sculpted Poppies display, which has just arrived there, should be seen by as many people as possible.

Finally we discuss clothes and the uniform that he wears as sheriff.

Kept and protected by Mary Carpenter of Much Wenlock, the outfit has been worn by more than 20 newcomers to the role, starting with Mary's husband who was High Sheriff of Worcestershire before they moved to live over in our county.

What a lovely and very enterprising tradition. And on that note of happy sharing, we send our new High Sheriff every good wish for a busy and fruitful year ahead.



# Benefits of creative curriculum

Commercial Feature

At a recent end-of-term assembly, parents at Shrewsbury High Prep School were able to experience for themselves the school's recently adopted bespoke creative curriculum as the school puts creativity, research and innovation at the heart of every pupil's learning experience.

Head of Shrewsbury High Prep Mrs Kate Millichamp explained the idea behind this particular type of learning: "In an ever advancing world, creativity is seen as a vital attribute. "Our belief is that working creatively from an early age will encourage a love of learning, something that will be a lifelong passion and that will facilitate our pupils to acquire tools that enable them to problem solve, to work imaginatively, to collaborate with peers and understand their learning in a context that matters to them.

Bespoke

"We have designed a bespoke curriculum that takes into account our pupils' learner experience and centred it in our location here in Shrewsbury. "Each term the pupils take a journey through a topic. Beginning with an experience that whets the appetite of each child, they are introduced to their topic of the term. This topic is the backbone to all of their lessons and is the contextualisation of their learning." Mrs Millichamp explained how the creative curriculum works: "A learning journey begins



On safari with Year One at Shrewsbury High Prep, where the curriculum focuses on creativity, research and innovation

with a 'wow' factor to capture your child's imagination. And so, the journey begins. "When our boys and girls are engrossed in their topic, passion takes over, and this curriculum cultivates a hands-on approach and enables our pupils to explore different

ways of approaching subjects and how best to collaborate with classmates to find an answer or a solution. The initial 'wow' factor takes the children on an academic journey through a number of different subjects as they examine the topic from scientific, artistic, geographical

or historical contexts. "Treating every pupil at Shrewsbury High Prep as an individual and giving them a learning experience to excite and inspire them is at the very heart of what we do for all our pupils, from the youngest members of our school



Year Three presenting on the Romans



Indian dance session with Year Four

community in Kindergarten to our Senior Boys in Years 7 & 8 as we help them prepare for their future schools". Shrewsbury High Prep is holding an Open Morning on Thursday April 19. To find out more please call 01743 494 038.



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# 16 Get ready for springtime motoring

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, April 12, 2018

## Commercial feature

WITH the warmer spring weather on its way after what seems like a long, cold winter, many of us will be looking to enjoy getting out and about on the region's roads to enjoy a drive.

A leisurely drive through our fantastic, beautiful region is one of spring's pleasures.

The countryside in the Oswestry and Welshpool areas is second to none and we are fortunate to have such a beautiful landscapes on our doorstep.

A trip through the countryside or a day out at one of our area's amazing attractions is a great way to enjoy time together with friends and family.

Of course we need to make sure our vehicles are up to scratch before we take to the roads.

Our region's fantastic garages will make sure your car is ready for the road and ready to enjoy some springtime motoring.

It is important to keep up to date with the rules of the road and your local garage will assist you in doing just that.

Having a valid MOT is crucial for a car to remain legal on UK roads – but recent research suggests millions of drivers forget to renew on time, leaving them at risk of hefty fines.

The survey, commissioned by AA Cars, quizzed 21,000 people on their MOT habits and found that, when extrapolated to reflect the whole population, the data could mean as many as two million Brits have been late renewing their MOT by a week – with half forgetting for up to a month.

The MOT test is no cakewalk – over a third of cars fail their first MOT test, with dangerous faults sadly common.

The AA's data shows most drivers with a fault classed as 'serious' on their cars were unaware of it before the test, which means the motorists who forget to renew their certificates could be driving cars with undiagnosed serious faults.



Local garages will make sure your car is ready for some springtime motoring

Driving a vehicle without a valid MOT puts a driver at risk of a £100 fixed penalty notice, which could rise to £1,000 if the fine goes to court.

But even having a valid MOT certificate won't protect you from driving a shed, as being in control of a vehicle with a dangerous fault could land you a fine of up to £2,500, three points

on your licence, and a potential driving ban, depending on the seriousness of the incident.

Simon Benson, director of motoring services at AA Cars, said: "For drivers across the country, MOT tests should be part and parcel of car ownership – or so we'd have thought.

Despite the MOT test being an annual statutory obligation for cars over the age of

three, it's the sort of thing that can easily slip through the cracks.

"It is crucial that drivers book their test in advance – they are not just a routine checkup, but a legal imperative to make sure your car is still fit to be on the road.

You can get the MOT up to a month early and still keep the same renewal date – so there's



There's not much better than a leisurely springtime drive

nothing to gain by leaving it to the last minute. Either set your own reminder or sign up to the government's MOT reminder service – you just need your vehicle registration number, email address and mobile number at the ready.

"It is worth noting that your MOT is a snapshot of time and regular servicing is vital to keep your car in a safe condition all year round."



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# Annual duck race was a bright spot in downpour



Organiser of the annual duck race at Welshpool Bev Roberts raises a cheerful smile

NICE weather for ducks! The annual charity duck race in Welshpool brightened up an otherwise soggy Easter bank holiday recently.

Welshpool firefighters opened their station to the public before taking to the water with hundreds of plastic ducks.

The Montgomery Canal just a few hundred yards from the fire station was the venue for the race with the bobbing bright yellow ducks venturing under the road bridge to the wharf in a race to the finish line.

Proceeds from the fundraiser were in aid of

the Children with Cancer Charity and the Fire Fighters Charity.

The day was supported by 11-year old Bethan Evans and her family.

The youngster from Llangadfan has been told that she is in remission after battling bone



The ducks are put into place for the popular annual event at Welshpool

cancer for the last five years. She and her family have themselves raised tens of thousands of pounds for cancer charities in the past and were thrilled that the open day and duck race at Welshpool were raising funds for Children with Cancer.

## Protest held about care shortages

PARENTS protesting over the state of young people's mental health services in Shropshire, declared: "Our children deserve so much more."

About 50 protesters campaigned outside the base of Shropshire's children and adolescent mental health service in Shrewsbury.

It followed claims the service had too few psychiatrists to adequately cover all of the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin boroughs.

Jigsaw Family Group, which works with hundreds of youngsters diagnosed with autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, said it organised the protest at Coral House in Harlescott Lane after two psychiatrists left the already-stretched service.

Amanda Godfrey, of South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (SSSFT) which runs the children's and adolescent mental health service, said the trust was actively recruiting more psychiatrists and was using locum staff in the meantime.

She said: "There is a national shortage of child psychiatrists and the service also uses a number of locum psychiatrists."

"These are psychiatrists with the same qualifications as those that SSSFT employ directly but are instead employed through an agency."

"We are working with a number of agencies at the moment to find suitably qualified staff to work with the team but this can be a lengthy process and can take some time."

## HIV charity pulls out of Shropshire

A CHARITY that supports patients with HIV and sexual health advice has pulled out of Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin due to funding cuts.

The Terrence Higgins Trust confirmed that it was no longer operating in the region after closing its doors on March 31 after 12 years working with residents.

But the South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust has insisted that it will continue to maintain services across the county.

Spokesman for the charity that aims to see HIV eradicated, Matt Horwood, said: "We're no longer going to be running services in Shropshire as the trust is planning to bring their services in-house to make them more flexible."

The trust previously ran drop-in facilities at sites in Telford and Shrewsbury.

South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust spokesman Paul Kumar said: "The foundation trust continues to provide safe and appropriate sexual health and HIV services to the population of Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, as commissioned by Shropshire and Telford Councils and NHS England."

## Solar farm may stay for longer

A CONTROVERSIAL solar farm near Oswestry could remain on fields for 30 years.

The Ebnal Lodge Solar farm at Rhosygadfa, Gobowen, opened in March 2017 with Shropshire Council granting permission for it to be sited there for up to 25 years.

Now a planning application has to forward to the unitary authority for that permission to be extended for a further five years.

A report as part of the application said that when the first planning applications for large-scale solar farms were submitted in 2010 it was common for them to last for 25 years in order to match the Feed-in Tariff subsidy period, as well as the standard warranty period. But the report says that having an extra five years would help to make the solar farm financially viable.

# New friends group aims to save historic old church



A new friends group is being launched to try to save St Myllin's Church in Llanfyllin



St Myllin's Church is a historic building but there are fears for the future

### Report by Jonny Drury

**THE number of churches and chapels around England and Wales are dropping, as funds get smaller and congregations decrease.**

In the last decade in Wales, more than 10 churches have closed per year, and figures in 2016 showed the amount of worshippers in the Church of England had dropped by 100,000 in 10 years.

One famous church in Powys is now under threat, but locals are determined it won't be part of any new closure figures.

St Myllin's Church in Llanfyllin dates back to the 'Age of the Saints' in the seventh century.

Two years ago, members of the church were given a wake-up call when they realised funds were running out.

Now the pot is empty, and a group of locals have rallied together to launch Friends of St Myllin's Church, in a bid to raise vital funds.

Simon Baynes, 57, who plays the organ, said: "If this closes, it will be devastating. People may not use it all the time, but it is used for weddings and funerals, other activities take place."

"We want to do something before it is too late, and bring it to people's attention."

"Congregations are getting older, and there isn't another generation coming through, and we need to take action to save the building."

The group is appealing for donations and will officially launch on Saturday from 10am to 12pm.



St Myllin's Church is a landmark in Llanfyllin



A group of local people want to save St Myllin's Church for future generations



# 18 Council to delay its call for new hospital in area

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, April 12, 2018

A TOWN council will delay its launch of a campaign to get a new hospital dedicated to Mid Wales after it was announced that Shropshire will get a health service shake-up.

Welshpool Town Council wants to bid for the area to get its own urgent care facility to prevent patients travelling long distances for treatment.

Residents needing emergency care currently go to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital (RSH), while some patients in south Montgomeryshire go to Bronglais Hospital in Aberystwyth. But last week Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt announced that up to £312 million will be spent on the Shropshire Future Fit programme. Options for the scheme include a single emergency unit at RSH and planned services at Telford's Princess Royal Hospital

As a result the town council has deferred plans to write to all town and community councillors in the area to gauge the public's views on the idea of a hospital for Mid Wales. Councillor Richard Church told a full council meeting last week: "It costs about £760 million for a hospital of that calibre."

Town Clerk Robert Robinson said: "I suggest that we wait until after the Future Fit survey is completed before doing our own consultation on this matter."

## Sponsor Matt delighted to back event

WHEN Matt Jones sold programmes at the Llangollen Eisteddfod as a schoolboy volunteer he never dreamt that he would one day be sponsoring one of the festival's modern success stories.

He is now the managing director of the Knight's Construction Group which has been named main sponsor of this year's Llanfest. The company owns and is developing number of sites in and around Llangollen including Grade II listed building Dinbren Hall and Tyn Dwr Hall, which was completed and launched as a luxury wedding venue in 2016. It was also appointed as principal contractor on the scheme to design and build a 2,855 square metre biomass facility for Tudor Griffiths Group.

Llanfest the finale party of the week long Eisteddfod, will be held on July 8, with the Kaiser Chiefs, The Hoosiers and Toploader headlining.

Mr Jones said: "I remember being surrounded by the colour and excitement of the festival as I sold programmes on the field as a schoolboy at Ysgol Dinas Bran.

"I have also attended Llanfest every year since 2011. I love the way the Sunday event has developed into a true festival, attracting increasingly high calibre artists and a wider, more contemporary audience to the town each year."

"As a company developing sites across North Wales and Shropshire we are keen to support initiatives and events that raise the profile of area on a national and international stage."

## College opens up forest school

NORTH Shropshire College is set to provide a unique opportunity for young explorers and their parents in the form of the new Walford Wood Forest School.

The school will offer children and their parents a wealth of activities from playing in the mud kitchen and digging for dinosaurs, to making exciting crafts in the surrounding woodland areas, all under the supervision of highly qualified practitioners. Parents will also be able to book a two-hour weekly session for six weeks at £45 or will be able to opt for a pay as you go tariff of £8 per session. The Forest School was opened officially at the college's popular Spring Lambing event and has already proven to be a hit with parents and children alike.

April Harding, childcare tutor at the school, who is also the lead for the new Forest School, said: "The Forest School will provide a wonderful opportunity for parents and their children to experience the countryside, and in particular, the wonderful settings around our Walford Campus, whilst learning new skills in an enjoyable and relaxed environment."

# Fire authority boss vows to battle move by police chief to take over running of service

Report by Mat Growcott

will not just be sitting around and accepting it. We will not just be saying get on with it."

Councillor Carter said he would be working with colleagues in Staffordshire and Cambridgeshire – where similar plans are going ahead – to come up with a solution.

"I gave a presentation a couple of weeks ago at the Fire Conference in Gateshead, and I did explain at the time there were three authorities that were being taken forward," he said.

"We submitted our opposition to the business case put forward and people across the political spectrum said that if this went ahead, we'd be getting together to take the next steps. We'll

be talking with colleagues in Staffordshire and Cambridgeshire to see what they want to do.

"Staffordshire has already said it would hold a judicial review. This is something we have said before, but we will discuss it now both with the Local Government Association and the other fire authorities involved. We will be making decisions quite soon."

Councillor Carter said there was no local accountability in the plans.

"There's no local representation," he said. "It will all be down to one person in an office in Worcester."

"He has no mandate to do this. When he stood for election he stood as police and crime commissioner, nothing to do with fire. Up until he stands again and is voted in, he has no man-

date." Others have come out in support of the decision.

Anthony Bangham, chief constable for West Mercia Police, said: "We already work very closely with our emergency service colleagues in fire and rescue and this news further enhances our opportunity to develop this working relationship."

"This announcement enables us to provide an even more efficient and effective response to better protect communities across West Mercia. I welcome our new joint-working arrangements." Minister for Policing and the Fire Service Nick Hurd said: "It is great to see police and crime commissioners identifying opportunities to drive greater collaboration between police and fire – there is a real opportunity."

# Holiday log cabin proposal sparks dozens of objections

Report by Jonny Drury

AROUND 80 people have objected to plans to build two holiday log cabins in ancient woodlands.

An application has been submitted to Powys County Council by Peter Bartley and Sophia Perkins, to build the cabins in Llidiart Wood, Moelgarth, near Welshpool.

The application was validated in October, and since then a raft of objections have been submitted to the local authority.

Residents and tourists to the area have cited a number of reasons they want the application to be rejected.

Jonathan Weldon, of Kent, said he travels 260 miles to Powys with his family, and has urged planners to reject the application, which he believes will harm the "undisturbed ancient forest".

He said: "As a life long visitor to this area of Powys, although not as much as I would like, I come to Powys for the undisturbed and settled nature of the countryside. An application of this nature downgrades this very pristine area within the environment."

## Access

Other people have raised concerns over issues with access to the development, the size of the cabins, waste management and the harm caused to the soil.

Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust has also thrown weight behind the objections, stating the council's unitary development plan says proposals should not result in significant damage to ancient and semi-natural woodlands.

A letter from conservation officer Tammy Stretton says: "Llidiart Wood is an ancient woodland, supporting a range of priority species, a site supporting high biodiversity."

"Should the application be given approval, it would be contrary to the Powys UDP Policy. Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust therefore objects to this proposal."

Despite the raft of public objections, Guilsfield Community Council has supported the application.

In a meeting in October, councillors stated they would support the application on the basis of it being environmentally friendly and having no detrimental impact on the surrounding environment. The council also stated improvements need to be made on Laundry Lane to access the site. The application is due to go before a planning committee but a date is yet to be set.

## Safety messages spelt out to schoolchildren



Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales Arfon Jones with Ysgol Y Waun pupils at the Dangerpoint safety centre

SCHOOLCHILDREN have been learning about dangerous and difficult situations by visiting a specialist safety centre.

The children from Ysgol Y Waun in Chirk visited the Dangerpoint centre to learn more about how to keep themselves safe. The centre in Talacre was set up through a public and private partnership 12 years ago. Visiting children and young people encounter a range of different scenarios involving dangerous or difficult situations.

Among them are a dark alley, a bus, a train carriage, a beach, a building site, a shop, a farm

yard and one of the most dangerous places of all – the home.

There are interactive films and even a driving simulator that's up to the standard of the best computer games in terms of software and graphics.

The centre recently won a grant of £5,000 from the Your Community, Your Choice initiative. It was paid out of cash confiscated from the area's criminals which is distributed by North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner Arfon Jones, North Wales Police and the Police and Community Trust. Mr Jones visited

the centre along with the Chirk pupils. The commissioner said: "The work done by DangerPoint is invaluable because it allows schools and other organisations to bring children here to learn, not just about internet safety, but safety in the home, outside, and all sorts of personal safety."

"If it saves only a few children from being harmed in whatever way then I think it has been an efficient and effective way of getting the message across. There is nothing more important than keeping children safe and I'm happy to be able to fund schools to come here."

# Repertoire announced for pianists' festival concert

THE Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod has revealed the repertoire for its music director Vicky Yannoula's performance with acclaimed pianist Peter Jablonski.

Forming part of The Classical Collection on July 4, pianists Vicky and Peter will take to the stage of the International Pavilion for a moving collaboration, featuring well-known and much-loved pieces, in a performance inspired by the power and magic of the piano.

The two-pianos extravaganza will begin with a performance of some of the most iconic pieces

from Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker Suite. Arranged by Nicolas Economou, audiences will enjoy the Overture before being transported to the magical Land of Sweets and sharing in an enchanting celebration of sweets from around the world.

This will include performances of the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy before culminating in a rousing performance of Valse des Fleurs – Waltz of the Flowers.

This will be followed by Yannoula and Jablonski's performance of Fêtes from Noc-

turnes by Debussy and Lutoslawski's Paganini Variations.

The celebration of this powerful instrument will follow performances from the finalists of the renowned Pendine International Voice of the Future Competition, which aims to advance the career of young singers.

The talented finalists will entice the audience with breathtaking vocal performances as they compete for the prestigious title and a share of the £10,000 prize fund, which is generously supported by Pendine Park and the Bryn Ter-

fel Foundation for the second year in a row. Vicky Yannoula said: "To be both celebrating my first ever International Eisteddfod and be performing in the pavilion alongside the incredibly talented Peter Jablonski is a thrill and an honour."

The Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod this year runs from July 3 to July 8. As well as a series of evening concerts featuring Alfie Boe, Van Morrison and Kaiser Chiefs, The Hoosiers and Toploader, there will also be live performances from competitors.



## Perfect country retreat enjoys outstanding views

**A perfect country retreat, away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, Y Dafarn at Moelfre, has four bedrooms and outstanding countryside views.**

Overlooking Moelfre Lake, it is for sale through Town & Country at £595,000 with no chain. A highly desirable and attractive four bedroom detached family home, it sits in three acres of fields and gardens. Its accommodation briefly comprises a reception room, a living room, a shower room, a kitchen/breakfast room, a laundry, an orangery, a study, a master bedroom with an en-suite, three further bedrooms and a bathroom. To the outside there are beautiful gardens leading to the lake, tandem and double garages, ample off-road parking, outbuildings and a sun terrace.

In more detail its elegant entrance hallway has a stone fireplace (not working), part panelled walls, a beam and stairs off. The sitting room has a beamed ceiling, a brick fireplace with an oil fired stove and alcove cupboards. The shower room is a fantastic luxury space with a tiled floor, wash hand basin on vanity unit, WC, walk-in shower with a Triton shower unit, a luxury ceiling mounted air body dryer, a vanity mirror and a beamed ceiling. The kitchen/breakfast room is the beautiful heart of the home. A farm-style kitchen open plan to the living room, it has wooden flooring, free-standing units, a ceramic sink with a mixer tap, a stainless steel oven, a microwave, an induction hob, under-floor heating, plumbing for a dishwasher and a window to the front. Stairs lead off to the first floor. There is access to an attic above the kitchen with a pull down ladder. This is boarded and has lighting. There is also a pantry with a ceramic sink, cold slabs, a beamed ceiling and old pub stone steps. The living room has wooden flooring, under-floor heating, two windows to the side and a storage room off. A fabulous space, the orangery/family room has lovely panoramic views over the lake and grounds. It also has wooden flooring, under-floor heating so the room can be used all year around, open to the eaves, beams, French doors to the side. It opens onto the living room. The study and boiler room complete the ground floor.

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## Property sits in a most attractive rural location

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Stone House occupies a most attractive rural location on the outskirts of the small hamlet of Wykey approximately one mile from Ruyton-Xi-Towns with its local facilities.

The property, understood to date back to the early 19th century, is constructed of sandstone and part rendered under a slated roof. It has a garden and approximately three and a half acres of land.

The property is for sale through JJ Dell & Co with a guide price of £499,950. Accommodation comprises an entrance lobby, sitting room, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, inner hallway, study/bedroom, rear entrance and shower room.

There are four bedrooms and a bathroom.

Contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



## Former pub has been upgraded to spacious family home

**MELVERLEY**  
**£480,000** <<<

A former public house having bed and breakfast potential, Tontine Inn on Church Lane, Melverley, Oswestry is now a large detached seven en-suite bedroomed home.

Being spacious and well maintained in a pleasant location, it is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £480,000 with no chain.

It has been recently upgraded to become a spacious family home.

Having oil fired central heating and double glazing throughout, it includes a large sun room, an open-plan living/ dining room with an impressive fireplace, seven first floor bedrooms all with en-suite bathrooms or shower facilities. There is also a fitted kitchen, a guest lounge and ancillary ground floor toilets and stores.

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Prices from £129,950	Offers in the region of £139,950	£140,000	Offers in the region of £142,500
<b>Dolwyddelan</b>	<b>Pant</b>	<b>St Martins</b>	<b>Gobowen</b>
OWNER WILL COTTAGE IN THE HEART OF THE (CHURCH) VALLEY FULL OF CHARACTER AND CHARM.	NO CHAIN! SPACIOUS, DETACHED BUNGALOW, THREE BEDROOMS, GARAGE AND PARKING.	OFFERED WITH NO CHAIN! AN EXTENSIVE FOUR BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE SITUATED IN A QUIET AREA ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE VILLAGE OF STRATAFORD.	NO CHAIN! FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY IN VILLAGE LOCATION.
£179,950	Offers in the region of £185,000	Offers in the region of £194,950	Offers in the region of £199,950
<b>Oswestry</b>	<b>Llanyngoch</b>	<b>Kinnerley</b>	<b>Twyfod</b>
SPACIOUS THREE BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW WITH LANDSCAPE GARDENS.	THREE BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW IN LLANYNGOCH, BACKING ONTO OPEN FIELDS.	IMMACULATE DETACHED FAMILY HOME IN QUIET POSITION IN THE BEAUTIFUL VILLAGE OF KINNERLEY.	SPACIOUS FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW IN THE BEAUTIFUL SHROPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE WITH VIEWS.
Offers in the region of £249,500	Offers in the region of £250,000	£295,000	£345,000
<b>Oswestry</b>	<b>Llanyngoch</b>	<b>Pentymwyn</b>	<b>Pant</b>
SPACIOUS THREE BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW WITH LANDSCAPE GARDENS.	THREE BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW IN LLANYNGOCH, BACKING ONTO OPEN FIELDS.	LARGE DETACHED PROPERTY WITH SPACIOUS ACCOMMODATION SET IN A QUIET CUL-DE-SAC IN THE PRETTY VILLAGE OF PENTYMWYN IN THE HEART OF THE TANAT VALLEY.	A BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED SPACIOUS FIVE BEDROOM FAMILY HOME WITH DETACHED SELF-CONTAINED ANNEX.
Offers in the region of £249,500	Offers in the region of £250,000	Offers in the region of £350,000	£379,500
<b>Oswestry</b>	<b>Llanyngoch</b>	<b>Pentymwyn</b>	<b>Pant</b>
SPACIOUS THREE BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW WITH LANDSCAPE GARDENS.	THREE BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW IN LLANYNGOCH, BACKING ONTO OPEN FIELDS.	LARGE DETACHED PROPERTY WITH SPACIOUS ACCOMMODATION SET IN A QUIET CUL-DE-SAC IN THE PRETTY VILLAGE OF PENTYMWYN IN THE HEART OF THE TANAT VALLEY.	A BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED SPACIOUS FIVE BEDROOM FAMILY HOME WITH DETACHED SELF-CONTAINED ANNEX.
Offers in the region of £249,500	Offers in the region of £250,000	Offers in the region of £350,000	£379,500



Unique coverage across Shropshire, North & Mid Wales and into Cheshire

Thinking of selling?  
Contact your local office today

**Oswestry**  
01691 652367  
35 Bailey Street, Oswestry, SY11 1PX  
oswestry@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

**Ellesmere**  
01691 622534  
Old Town Hall, The Square,  
Ellesmere, SY12 0EP  
ellesmere@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

**Wrexham**  
01978 340000  
1 King Street, Wrexham, LL11 1HF  
wrexham@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

**Llangollen**  
01978 860346  
34 Castle Street, Llangollen, LL20 8RT  
llangollen@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

**Chirk**  
01691 772443  
2 Church Street, Chirk,  
Wrexham, LL14 5HA  
chirk@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

**NEW**




**Wykeyn XI Towns** £499,950

- A 4 Bedroom Nineteen Century Stone Cottage
- Extending to 3 acres (or thereabouts) and a range of useful outbuildings.
- Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Conservatory
- Utility Room, Study/bedroom and Shower Room
- 4 good sized bedrooms and a Family Bathroom
- Range of building including a Garage, Stable Boxes
- Store shed and Farm Buildings/Dutch Barn (currently not in use)
- The land is split into 4 even sized paddocks

**NEW**




**Summerfield Close** £164,995

- A well presented 3 bedroom semi-detached house
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner
- Utility, Cloakroom, Conservatory
- Master Bedroom with En-suite
- Two Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Enclosed rear garden mainly laid to lawn
- Paved patio and decking area
- Ample off road parking
- Gas C/H and UPVC double glazing

**NEW**




**Henlle Gardens** £220,000

- NO CHAIN - A 4 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Situated in the popular village of Gobowen
- Ent Hall, Cloaks, Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility & Integral Garage
- Master Bedroom with En-suite, 3 further Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- An enclosed rear garden and driveway to the front
- Gas C/H and Timber framed single glazing. EPC Rating D (59)

**Building Plot** £50,000

- An excellent residential development opportunity located in the popular village of Gobowen
- Extending to 0.12 acres (0.04 ha) or thereabouts
- Having outline planning permission for the erection of one detached dwelling.

**NEW**




**Liverpool Road** £199,950

- A spacious Edwardian 4 Bedroom End-of-Terrace House
- Situated within an established residential location
- The property has been maintained to a high standard
- Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Living Room
- Kitchen, Utility, Sun Room & ground floor Shower Rm
- 3 Double Bedrooms & 1 Single Bedroom
- Further Sun Room and Family Bathroom
- Enclosed courtyard and garage.
- Gas central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating E (40)




**Twmpath Lane** £330,000

- FOR SALE BY ONLINE AUCTION
- ONLINE BIDDING NOW OPEN UNTIL 12:00 NOON FRIDAY 20th APRIL (UNLESS SOLD PRIOR OR WITHDRAWN)
- An interesting investment/development opportunity comprising of a row of four, 2 bedroom terrace houses
- The four cottages sit on a generous size plot (approx. 0.32 acre)
- Offering ample off road parking and gardens to the rear.
- The cottages offer spacious living accommodation each comprising: Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom





**Cae Gwynn Close** £197,000

- An immaculate presented 4 Bedroom Leasehold Family Home
- With outstanding views over open countryside.
- Entrance Porch, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen and Utility
- Master Bedroom with En-suite, 3 further Bedrooms and Bathroom.
- An enclosed rear garden and driveway to the front.
- Gas Fired Central Heating and UPVC Double Glazing
- EPC Rating C (73)

**Upper Brook** £104,995

- Well presented 2 bedroom mid terraced property
- Situated on the fringe of the town centre
- Lounge, Kitchen,
- Two Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Rear Garden with Shed
- Gas C/H and D/G. EPC Rating F (28)
- An Ideal First Time or Investment

**NEW**




**Shrewsbury Road** £335,000

- BRAND NEW SITE - FIRST RELEASES-
- 4 Bedroom Detached Family Home with Integral Garage
- In the popular village of Hadnall close to the Market Town of Shrewsbury.
- Open plan Kitchen/Diner provides ample space for relaxing and entertaining
- Spacious Living room with bay window and Cloakroom.
- Master Bedroom with fitted wardrobes and En-suite
- Three further Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- An enclosed rear garden, Integral Garage and Driveway

**NEW PRICE**




**Rowan Close** £149,995

- An well appointed 2 Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow
- Porch, Lounge, Kitchen, Conservatory
- 2 Bedrooms and Shower Room
- Well maintained front and rear garden
- Off road parking
- Gas C/H and hardwood D/G
- EPC Rating D (65)




**Llanrhaeadr YM Mochnant** £175,000

- A traditional 3 bedroom semi-detached stone cottage
- Spacious living accommodation over three floors comprising
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, and Family Room.
- To the lower level is the Kitchen, Dining Room, Conservatory
- Utility Room and Shower Room.
- 3 bedrooms and a Family Bathroom
- Riverside garden with wooden decking area
- Oil Fired Central heating and partly double glazed windows
- NO CHAIN

**Prince Street** £90,000

- NO CHAIN and OFF ROAD PARKING
- A 2 Bedroom Mid-Terrace House in need of modernisation
- Situated within walking distance of the centre of Oswestry.
- Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen and Shower Room
- On the first floor there are 2 double






**Oswalds Close** £310,000

- A well proportioned 6 bedroom detached family home
- Living Room and Dining Room, well appointed Kitchen
- Utility Room and Cloakroom
- 6 good sized Bedrooms (2 with en-suites) and Family Bathroom.
- Gas fired central heating and
- hardwood double glazing throughout
- Well maintained to the highest of standards
- Good sized gardens with views over the Brynhafof playing fields
- EPC Rating C (75)




**Ellesmere Road, St Martins** £149,995

- NO CHAIN
- Spacious 3 bed end of terrace property
- Ent Porch, Hall, Kitchen, Living Rm
- Dining Rm, Rear Porch & Conservatory
- 3 good sized beds & Shower Rm
- Generous size plot offering a wide range of uses
- Driveway & single garage to side
- Oil C/H and uPVC double Glazing. EPC Rating F (30)

**Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant** £400,000

- A stunning Grade II Listed Farmhouse
- Situated in an elevated position with outstanding views over the Tanat Valley
- Reception Hall; Music Room; Sitting Room; Dining Room
- Kitchen Lounge; Kitchen; Utility Room; Rear Lobby; Pantry
- Coal House; Gallery Landing; Loft Storage Room; Integral Garage
- Gun Room; Cellar; 5 First Floor Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom; 5 Attic Rooms
- Large Gardens; Orchard/Paddock.

**Regent Court** £94,995

- Well appointed 1/2 Bed First Floor Apartment
- Purpose built retirement complex
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Area/Bed 2
- Kitchen, Bedroom and Bathroom
- 24 hour resident secretary facility, communal lounge & garden




**Hampton Rise** £325,000

- A rare opportunity to purchase a 3 Bedroom Detached House
- Situated within a desirable established residential location
- Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Cloakroom
- Dining Room, Lounge, Kitchen/Breakfast Room & Utility
- 3 Bedrooms and a Family Bathroom.
- Excellent plot with mature front and rear gardens
- Driveway and single garage
- Oil central heating & Double glazing
- EPC Rating D (60)
- NO CHAIN




**Morda Road** £375,000

- A substantial Detached 4 Bedroom Family Home
- Within walking distance of the Market Town of Oswestry
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Music Room, Office, Kitchen/Diner
- Utility, and Dining Room, Master Bedroom with En-suite
- 2nd Bedroom with En-suite, 2 further Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- plot of 1/3 acre with front and rear gardens
- Orchard/vegetable patch, poly-tunnel and patio areas
- Driveway & Double garage with workshop.




**Whittington Road** £159,995

- A spacious 2 bedroom semi-detached bungalow
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room
- Shower Room and 2 Bedrooms
- An enclosed garden mainly laid to lawn
- Driveway to the side
- Gas Fired Central Heating and UPVC D/G
- EPC Rating D (62)
- NO CHAIN

**Building Plot** £74,995

- A residential plot located in the picturesque village of Chirk Bank extending to 0.04 acres or thereabouts with outline planning permission for the erection of one detached dwelling
- The site is located within walking distance of the Shropshire Union Canal and the Chirk Aqueduct





## Property has a wealth of period features

**HINDFORD**  
**£375,000**

A spacious character property with a wealth of period features, Hindford Cottage in Hindford, Whittington lies in a quiet rural hamlet.

It is for sale through JJ Dell & Co at £375,000 with no chain. With oil central heating, it has a porch, a reception hall, a sitting room, a dining room, a breakfast kitchen, utility, three bedrooms and a bathroom. There is also car parking, a garage and side and rear gardens including a patio area. The property was built in the late 1800s, once being the home of the manager of the Valve House which is situated adjacent to the property. Hindford Cottage is now an attractive home.

For more details contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437.



## 17th century home offers highly flexible accommodation

**HOPE**  
**£725,000**

<<<

Little Hope, at Hope, Leighton near Welshpool is a 17th century cottage that has undergone a large extension.

Currently run as a bed and breakfast business, its flexible layout means it also provides for two co-habiting families, with separate quarters. In a design which flows with exceptional clarity and focus as a property with an option for two halves, it is for sale through Balfours at £725,000.

Nestled in the hamlet of Hope, Leighton is just two miles from Welshpool, with all necessary services to hand. It is located on the original Offa's Dyke and sits within an acre of garden and grounds in an elevated position on Long Mountain. The result is a magnificent uninterrupted vista across open countryside – a true wow.

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511.



## SALES

ENQUIRIES PLEASE TELEPHONE 01743 353511

www.balfours.co.uk

**Balfours**  
PROPERTY PROFESSIONALS

NEW



## Llandyssil, Powys

A striking modern property affording a period appearance with views across Welsh mountain ranges

Entrance Hall, Hallway, Living Room, The Ark, Kitchen/ Breakfast Room, Utility, Pantry, Cloakroom, Study, Two Staircases, Bedroom One with En Suite Bathroom, Three Further Bedrooms, Shower Room, EPC Rating E

Guide Price £825,000

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## FREE PRE-SALE VALUATIONS

With years of combined experience and a track record of many 100's of property sales in and around Oswestry, our property sales team can ensure you get the very best price for your home.

As you would expect from a leading local company our advice is free and without any obligation or pressure - so call us today.

Martin Moore MIRPM MNAEA MARLA

01691 679595

Roger Lunt FRICS FNAEA FARLA



**34 Summerfield Close, Oswestry**  
**£139,950**

Semi detached house located towards the edge of the town. Two reception rooms, fitted kitchen and cloakroom. Three bedrooms and bathroom. Double glazing and gas-fired central heating. Enclosed rear garden area, off road parking. EPC Rating = 51(E)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**14 Queens Road, Oswestry**  
**£220,000**

Large period terrace house with five bedrooms arranged over three floors, plus useable cellars. Set in an established residential street within the town centre convenient for local amenities, schools, shops and supermarkets. Gas central heating. Garden to rear. For sale with no upward chain. EPC Rating = 55(D)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**111A Heritage Way, Llanymynech**  
**£149,950**

Three bedroom end town house. Two parking spaces to front and garden to rear which backs onto farmland. D/glazing and LPG (gas) c/heating. Attractive fitted kitchen. Village location just 6 miles from Oswestry. EPC Rating - B (78)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**33 Cae Onan, Morda** £239,950

●● SOLD STC ●●  
Similar Properties Wanted  
A beautifully presented four bedroom detached family home located on the edge of the village of Morda, backing onto farmland and with extensive views over the North Shropshire Plain towards Shrewsbury from the rear. EPC Rating=76(C)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**20 Marshfields, Maesbury Marsh**  
**£119,950**

Two bedroom semi detached bungalow located in the village of Maesbury Marsh. The property is set in well balanced gardens with double glazing and oil central heating installed. EPC Rating = E(52)  
●●● No Chain ●●●

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

### Tontine Inn, Molverley

£480,000

OPEN DAY - No Appointment needed. Former Public House now affords a large detached residence in pleasant location. Recently up-graded and offers opportunity for B & B. Oil C/H, large sun room, open-plan living/dining room with impressive fireplace. Seven bedrooms all have en-suite bathroom or shower facilities. Detached stores/workshop or garage. EPC Rating:65(C)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



### 16 Jennings Road, Oswestry.

O.I.R.O.

£149,950

Attractive late Victorian terrace property occupying a very popular location overlooking Brynhafod Playing Fields. Comprising, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, rear porch, two bedrooms and bathroom. Gas central heating and some replacement double glazing and garden to rear. Offered for sale with no ongoing chain. EPC Rating = D(64)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**64 Penybryn Avenue Whittington** £145,000

Established 3 bedroom semi-detached house ideal for first time buyers or a young family, located on a cul-de-sac just 3 miles from Oswestry Town Centre. Double glazed windows, gas central heating, gardens to front and rear with ample off-road parking to the side. Some updating and improvement work is required. EPC Rating = 52(E)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

### 59 Hampton Fields, Oswestry

£215,000

Two bedroom detached bungalow. Garage, gardens and ample parking. Gas central heating, double glazing. Very popular location close to Oswestry Town Centre. Quiet head of cul-de-sac position. Requires some updating. No chain. EPC Rating = 48(E)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**Bryn Awel, Middleton Rd Oswestry** £210,000

Detached family house. Two receptions, kitchen/breakfast, g/ floor shower. Three bedrooms and family bathroom. Gas-fired central heating, double glazing. Ample off road parking, detached workshop. EPC Rating = 45(E).

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

### Residential Properties To Let

#### OSWESTRY

2 Bedroom Mid-Terrace, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC= 51) (£560 dep) .....£460 pcm  
2 Bed Semi-Det House, Gas C/H FTE, No Pets, (EPC=68) (£570 dep) .....£470 pcm  
3 Bedroom Det Bungalow, Gas C/H, No Pets (EPC =39) .....£600 pcm

#### MORDA

3 Bed Semi-Det House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC=74) (£720 dep) .....£620 pcm

#### GOBOWEN

2 Bedroom 1st/F Flat, Electric Heating, FTE, No Pets,(EPC=73)(£425 deposit).....£325 pcm  
3 Bed Village House, Gas C/H, Parking, FTE, No Pets, (EPC=79) (£695 deposit) .....£595 pcm

#### LLANSANTFFRAID

2 Bedroom New Semi-Det House, LPG Gas/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC=TBC) (£595 deposit) .....£495 pcm  
2 Bedroom New Semi-Det House, LPG Gas/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC=TBC) (£625 deposit) .....£525 pcm

#### KINNERLEY

2 Bed Detached Bungalow, Oil C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC= 66) (£725 deposit).....£625 pcm

Fees: Application Fee: £40 Per Applicant - Lease Fee: £150

Aberystwyth 01970 625020  
Bishops Castle 01588 638511  
Llanidloes 01686 412567

London 0203 368 3986  
Lettings Centre 01686 626160  
Machynlleth 01654 702472

Newtown 01686 626160  
Oswestry 01691 679595  
Rhayader 01597 739994

Twyyn 01654 710388  
Welshpool 01938 554818  
Aberdyfi (window display)





# Stunning Grade II farmhouse enjoys superb views

LLANRHAeadR  
£400,000

Clynog, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant near Oswestry is a stunning Grade II listed farmhouse in an elevated position with outstanding views over the Tanat Valley.

It is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £400,000. The property is situated on the outskirts of the picturesque village of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant close to the confluence of the rivers Tanat and Rhaeadr in the stunning Berwyn Mountains and near Pistyll Rhaeadr.

In brief, the property has a reception hall, music room, sitting room, dining room, kitchen lounge, kitchen, utility room, rear lobby, coal house, gallery landing, a loft storage room, integral garage, gun room, five first floor bedrooms, a family bathroom, five attic rooms, large gardens and an orchard/paddock.



Originally forming part of the Wynnstay Estate, the property has an attractive 19th century frontage with an earlier farmhouse now serving as its rear wing. The property has remained in the current owner's family for over 100 years and this sale therefore offers a unique opportunity to purchase one of the area's most historic homes.

Clynog is approached over a well-maintained driveway which is owned by the property with original iron carriage and walking gates leading onto the courtyard with adjoining lawned area which provides access to the property and ample parking.

The agents have been informed it is Grade II Listed and substantial repairs were made to the roof around seven years ago.

Contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367.



## Well located property in hamlet comes with cottage

LLANGEDWYN  
£229,950 >>>

Well located in the small hamlet of Pentre Felin in the Tanat Valley, 2 Glanrafon Cottages, Pentre Felin, Llangedwyn, comes with an attached single bedroom cottage subject to a protected tenancy, known as Number 1.

Coming with good sized gardens, a range of detached outbuildings and having scope for improvement, it is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £229,950.

The main drive approach off the access lane passes by a range of brick/stone and slate roofed detached stores providing ample storage.

A small section is included with No1 Glanrafon Cottages, and is therefore subject to the protected tenancy status.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more details about the property and to arrange a viewing.



## Well presented detached family home has six bedrooms

OSWESTRY  
£310,000 <<<

Having views over the Brynhafof playing fields, 9 Oswalds Close, Oswestry is a well proportioned six-bedroom detached family home with well presented living accommodation set out over three floors.

It is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £310,000.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall, a living room and a dining room, a well appointed kitchen with a utility room and a cloakroom/WC, whilst on the first and second floors there are six good sized bedrooms (two with en-suites) and a family bathroom.

The property has gas fired central heating and hardwood double glazing throughout. Internally the property has been well maintained to the highest of standards whilst outside there are good sized gardens.

Contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367.





## Excellent barn conversion in superb private location

STANWARDINE  
£625,000

<<<

An excellent barn conversion, Oak Barn at Stanwardine Park Farm at Stanwardine, combines an exemplary finish with a superb private location, landscaped gardens and paddocks.

Set two miles from Baschurch and with Oswestry and Shrewsbury each some 10 miles away, it is for sale through Balfours at £625,000 with no chain.

Balfours agent, Duncan Scobie said: "It is the former Jinney ring which provides the ultimate wow factor, in this wonderfully proportioned home with four en-suite bedrooms."

Now forming part of the living room and incorporating a raised wood burner, the Jinney Ring area was where once a horse-powered mill worked.

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511.



## Superb bungalow is close to all amenities

OSWESTRY  
£144,950

1 Whitfield Mews, Oswestry is one of four superb high specification newly built bungalows.

For sale through Town & Country, prices start from £144,950. These new homes are situated in a most convenient part of Oswestry with all local amenities to hand. The accommodation briefly comprises an open plan living room/kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. The properties are warmed by an Energy Efficient Heating System and double glazing and are accessed through a security gate. There are communal security lights the length of the walkway, making the outside area private and secure. A caretaker will maintain the community on a monthly basis.

Contact Town & Country on 01691 679631.



**J.J. DELL & Co.**

CHARTERED SURVEYORS

### NR. OSWESTRY



- Range Of Attractive Traditional Stone Barns
- Suitable For Re-Development
- Desirable And Picturesque Hamlet Location
- Mains Electricity And Water Available

JJD989

GUIDE PRICE £345,000

### GOBOWEN



- Close Care Residential Bungalow On Purpose Built Complex
- CH & DG
- Lounge/Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Rear Enclosed Paved Yard
- Further Overnight Visitor Accommodation Available
- EPC Band - E

JJD987

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £69,950

### GOBOWEN, NR. OSWESTRY



- Retirement Bungalow On Purpose Built Complex
- Minimum Age 55 Years
- CH & DG
- Lounge/Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Cloakroom
- Two Bedrooms
- New Bathroom/Wet Room
- Garage
- Rear Enclosed Courtyard
- Short Distance From Office
- EPC Band - D

JJD986

GUIDE PRICE £103,000

### LLANGYNOG



- Spacious Detached Dormer House
- Views Overlooking The Valley
- OFCH & DG
- Reception Hall
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Living Room & Dining Room
- Cloakroom & Utility
- Four Bedrooms (Master En Suite)
- Paddock - In All Approx. 2 Acres
- EPC Band - E

JJD973

GUIDE PRICE £439,950

### ST. MARTINS



- Semi-Detached House Within Walking Distance Of Village Facilities
- Entrance Hall
- Living Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Good Sized Rear Garden
- Garage And Car Port
- EPC Band -

JJD997

GUIDE PRICE £149,000

### GLYN CEIRIOG



- Attractive Mid Terraced Property
- Central Village Location
- OCH & PVC DG
- Living Room
- Kitchen Diner
- Two Bedrooms
- Shower Room
- Walk-In Wardrobe
- Loft Room/Office
- Front And Rear Gardens
- On-Street Parking
- EPC Band - E

JJD978

£140,000

### LLANYMYNECH



- Attractive Detached Bungalow
- Central Village Location
- OFCH & PVC DG
- Reception Hall
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Two Conservatories
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Garage And Utility
- Ample Car Parking
- EPC Band - D

JJD990

£159,950 or nearest offer considered

### PONTFAEN, NR. CHIRK



- Detached Victorian House In Idyllic Location
- GFCH & DG
- Breakfast Kitchen With Dining And Living Area
- Three Further Reception Rooms
- Laundry Room
- Four Bedrooms
- Three Bathrooms And Sauna Room
- Countryside Views
- EPC Band -

JJD998

£670,000

### TETCHILL, NR. ELLESMERE



- Well Appointed Four Bed. Detached House
- Small Cul De Sac Location
- OFCH And D/Clazing
- Reception Hall
- Living Room And Dining Room
- Kitchen And Utility
- Four Bedrooms (Master En Suite)
- Study Option
- Bathroom
- Driveway And Double Garage
- Enclosed Rear Gardens
- Outskirts Of Village Location
- EPC Band - D

JJD995

GUIDE PRICE £305,000

### CHURCH STREET, OSWESTRY - TO LET



- Most Attractive Grade II Listed Property
- Short Distance From Major Retailers And Institutions
- Bar/Restaurant/Cafe Venue
- Town Centre Location
- Busy Trading Position
- Reception Area
- Lounge And Bar
- Beer Cellar
- Function Room
- Kitchen
- Male/Female/Disabled Toilets
- Flexible Terms To Be Agreed
- EPC Band -

JJD991

RENT - £12,500

### OSWESTRY - TO LET



- One Bedroomed Flat Convenient For Town Centre
- Shared Entrance Lobby
- Landing
- Sitting Room
- Dining Kitchen
- Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Car Parking Available
- EPC Band - D
- Rent £375 PCM.
- Deposit £180.

JJD0068

RENT £375 PCM

### DEVELOPMENT SITE - HENGOED



- Site Extending To 0.8 Acres
- Property Occupied By Repairs Garage
- OPP For Four Executive Dwellings
- Outskirts Of Village Location
- Open Views Across Surrounding Countryside
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## Communities may have more say on neighbourhood

**More funding is being put into the development of neighbourhood plans in England which will give local people a say in the development of their area, including where homes, schools and businesses should be built.**

A £23 million fund will give communities free access to expert advice and guidance so that they can have a fruitful say in housing, construction as well as a view on what buildings should look like and what infrastructure is needed to support them.

Housing Minister Dominic Raab said that community groups will be able to access a range of free help including financial support and latest planning expertise from trained professionals, to guide them through the process of preparing a neighbourhood plan.

"Neighbourhood plans are a powerful tool to help communities shape their local area, making sure the right homes are built in the right places.

"It's vital that communities have the right support and advice available to help deliver a plan that meets their own ambitious aspirations," he explained.

Over 2,300 communities across England have started the process of neighbourhood planning, with 530 plans approved in local referendums.

### Neighbourhood

Previous Government support has helped around seven out of 10 of these communities progress their plans, with 365 neighbourhood plans finalised using support provided by the Government.

The maximum grant available has also been increased by £2,000 to £17,000, helping communities to access more resources to develop a plan for their area and groups can find out more information about how to apply for funding via a new website at [www.neighbourhoodplanning.org](http://www.neighbourhoodplanning.org)

Applications to bid for funding will open on April 3, 2018 and the programme is being put in place by Locality and Groundwork UK which has been appointed to oversee the fund.

Locality will use its expertise, skills and track record advising on development to help communities to reach the full potential of their neighbourhood plan from start to finish.

Their dedicated website aims to provide clear information on neighbourhood planning and signpost to highly qualified specialists from a range of organisations, including design and engineering professionals at AECOM and the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

Groundwork UK has been appointed to administer the application process for grant funding, ensuring that finance is available for groups to cover the costs that are associated with producing a successful neighbourhood plan.

# Property experts offer top tips for budding landlords

**Considering renting out a property? Make sure you do some groundwork first, says Vicky Shaw.**

From getting a property ship-shape, to understanding your new legal responsibilities, becoming a landlord for the first time can feel like a daunting prospect.

Whether you're an 'accidental' landlord after deciding to rent your house in a sluggish selling market, or you're planning to start a property empire, getting to grips with the basics of letting out a home could save you some grief further down the line.

If you are looking to invest, you'll want to choose your property wisely.

Rising mortgage rates, as well as recent tax changes for landlords, may be leaving some seeing their profit margins squeezed, making choosing a property in the right location even more vital for maximising returns.

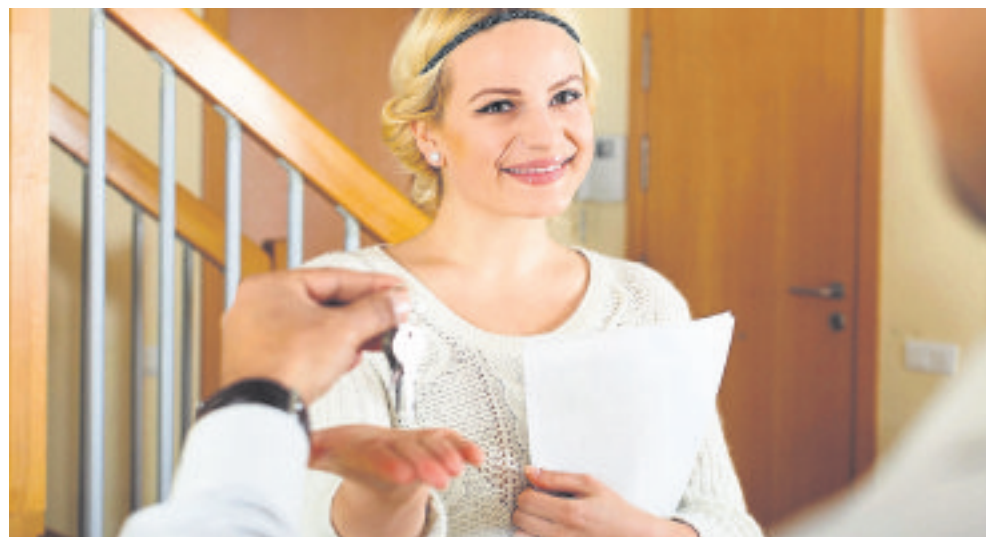
Consumer group Which? also says, generally, it's a good idea to choose a property that will be easy and cost-effective to maintain.

With the property taken care of, as lettings expert David Cox points out: "Whether you're a first-time landlord or have let properties before, there are some things every landlord should know."

Here are his top tips for budding landlords...

1. Prepare your property – As a first step, you should undertake any maintenance which needs to be done. Your property will be more attractive to prospective tenants if it's had a fresh lick of paint, all repairs are done and, if necessary, new flooring has been installed. Next, you should decide whether to let the property furnished or unfurnished. If possible, consider offering both options, so that it can be marketed to a wider audience.

2. Do your homework – Get to know your market. Research similar properties in the



local area and find out how much they are being let for per month. If your rent is set too high, or too low, prospective tenants will steer clear. It's also worth considering what type of renter the property will appeal to, such as young professionals, families or students. Once you've done your homework, set a competitive price and aim to keep it filled at all times to minimise rental voids.

3. Know your responsibilities – With your new status comes great responsibility. In the first instance, check that your mortgage allows you to let out your property, as some agreements include caveats to prevent homes from being rented. If you are unsure, speak to your mortgage lender and they will be able to advise you accordingly.

Being a landlord is a 24/7 job, so you may also need to be prepared to receive calls from your tenant at night as well as

during the day, as some issues will need immediate attention, such as if there is a gas leak or broken boiler. Be prepared to be accountable when required, unless you agree for your letting agent to manage the property – in which case they will deal with the minor issues.

4. Ensure you're properly insured – Your existing buildings and contents insurer must be made aware of your intention to let your property, as it's likely your policy will need to be amended.

Specific landlord insurance policies can protect the building, your tenants and your investment as a whole – some policies will also pay out if your tenant misses their rent payments.

5. Vet prospective tenants – You may wish to meet potential tenants before agreeing to let them your property, or you may prefer

to leave it to your letting agent, if you use one. An agent can perform reference and credit checks on potential tenants to ensure everything is reliable.

6. Know your legal requirements – When it comes to being a landlord, there are more regulations to comply with than you can shake a stick at.

A written tenancy agreement will help both you and your tenant understand rights and responsibilities and make sure you understand your responsibilities to make sure the property is safe.

7. Choose the right agent – If you do decide to use a letting agent, a good one can take away the stress of finding suitable tenants and also ensure your property complies with any regulatory changes. You will need to factor this into your budget though.

## House building on track to meet Government targets

**House building in the UK is on track to meet Government targets with the industry delivering the fastest increase in output ever recorded, according to a new report.**

Overall supply is not above the levels seen in the 1950s and on track to exceed a million by 2020 as builders invest more money in the future and deliver better quality homes, says the report from the Home Builders Federation (HBF).

But the HBF is warning that complacency is a danger and the Government still needs to support progress and not give in to the Not In My Back Yard (NIMBY) brigade.

With housing supply now above the levels recorded in the post war years and up 74 per cent in four years, satisfaction scores released by the HBF show that build quality is improving and private sector builders is providing 50 per cent of all affordable housing as part of community contributions of over £6 billion a year.

The report also reveals that tens of thousands of new employees are being recruited and trained and a record number of planning permissions being applied for as the industry gears up to deliver Government's pledges to build 300,000 homes a year.

The industry believes that the Government should be recognising the progress being made by private



sector house builders and working with them to positively position an industry that needs public support, and more recruits, to deliver Government targets.

"The Government has quite rightly recognised the social and political need for them to address the chronic housing shortage we face. House builders have risen to the challenge and delivered huge increases in supply, whilst providing increasing contributions to local infrastructure, amenities and

affordable housing," said Stewart Baseley, HBF executive chairman. "As the same time the industry has invested hugely in training, recruitment and land to ensure it is geared up to deliver Government promises. The industry has also reacted decisively to reverse the slight, but unacceptable falls in customer service and quality, something that takes commitment from board level down," he told the HBF policy conference.

"The constant criticism of the industry often fails to recognise the huge progress being made. Negative perceptions also make further increases in supply more difficult by encouraging and providing excuses for the anti-development lobby and local authorities who don't want to build," he explained.

"It also makes attracting the brightest and best your people more difficult. House builders across the country face huge challenges getting sites agreed and recruiting skilled workers, issues made more difficult by negative perceptions of the industry," he added.

He told the conference that the big increases in supply seen in recent years are on the back of successful policy introductions and private sector investment. "We are calling on Government to continue to work with the industry constructively to deliver further mutually beneficial goals," said Baseley.



“They’ve all got such individual personalities – they are such characters”

# Herd is the word!

**W**ith their big, dark eyes, great curiosity and gentle nature – alpacas can melt hearts in an instant.

Often described as nature's stressbusters, they're native to South America but are now becoming an increasingly common sight in this country.

Clivewood Farm in north Shropshire is home to a herd of 32 huacaya alpacas, to find out more about these intriguing and beautiful creatures.

As soon as our group of visitors walks into their field, fleecy heads turn, ears perk up and dozens of pairs of eyes are fixed upon us.

But they show absolutely no signs of being afraid and almost immediately the group of females start to walk over to where we're standing.

## Unimpressed

A few, realising we're sadly not there to feed them, turn back unimpressed but many stay, curious about who we are and peering at us from under their bushy eyebrows.

"They're friendly and inquisitive animals."

"They are very placid and very relaxing to be around."

"There is something calming about them."

"They are just lovely," says Caroline Oakes, who runs the farm with her husband Ian.

One of the alpacas that has wandered over to say hello is adorable six-month-old female cria Rhea.

The youngster immediately wins us over with her playfulness as she nose-butts our arms and is happy to be stroked on the back of her incredibly soft neck.

"Rhea is very curious and likes to see what's going on. She can be quite demanding and likes attention."

"Her mother Bow was a first-time mother but didn't really understand that she had a baby to look after so Rhea had to be hand-reared with goat's milk because it's the closest you can get to alpaca milk," explains Caroline.

"They've all got such individual personalities."

## Characters

"I've kept sheep for years and I couldn't tell one sheep from another but alpacas are such characters."

"We've got Josephine who is very greedy and tries to eat everybody's food and we've got Erin who is very inquisitive and likes to get her head through the fence to eat and there's Thora who was born in a thunderstorm and is a very friendly alpaca," she adds.

Many of the males have been named after South American footballers so in their field you will find, among others, Ronaldo, Pele, Sócrates and Dida.

"The girls' names are a bit more random."

"I'm trying to think of strong women now which is why I named one of the cria Artemis after the Greek goddess."

"Some people just keep white alpacas, or black alpacas or brown alpacas but we have a mixture of all colours here," says Caroline.

And it's not hard to see why these animals are becoming

more popular in the UK with 60,000 now believed to be in the country compared with around 200 two decades ago.

They have been at Clivewood Farm, in Clive, near Wem, since 2013 when keen spinner and weaver Caroline, who used sheep wool, heard about the positive qualities of alpaca fleece.

There are two types of alpacas – huacaya, like the herd at Clivewood that have a 'teddy bear' look due to their fleece growing in small bundles, and suri, which have more of a Wensleydale sheep appearance.

## Confused

They are often confused with llamas and although they are closely related, alpacas are much smaller, have different shaped faces and ears as well as a much thicker fleece.

"It has a different feel to it than sheep's wool."

"It's a softer fleece and more luxurious."

"It's not quite cashmere but it's heading that way," says 60-year-old Caroline.

The alpacas are shorn in June and the fleeces are sent to be processed at a mill.

Caroline then uses the wool to create scarves, cushions, throws and bespoke rugs on the looms in her weaving studio.

"There are 22 natural colours from white to black and everything in between."

"We also dye it to

make different colours to match people's decor," explains Caroline, who also runs courses and workshops for people interesting in learning the craft.

Last year, she took first and second place with her handmade alpaca rug and cushion in the homeware section at the 2017 British Alpaca Society National Show.

"I find it very relaxing and I get lost in it to the point where people often shock me because I haven't heard them enter the studio," says Caroline, who plans to exhibit at this year's Royal Three Counties Show.

As well as the finished products, she also offers a wide range of alpaca fibre suitable for weaving, handspinning and felting.

"Although it was the fibre that interested me, I had always thought they were lovely animals."

"We started with four boys and it's grown from there."

"We now have 32."

"The youngest is six months and oldest is about 15," adds the mum of three and grandmother of five.

According to Caroline, who studied agrifood and business at Harper Adams University, alpacas are relatively easy to keep and are fairly hardy.

Helping to keep the animals healthy and content is herd manager Becci Usherwood, aged 37, who has been working at the farm since September.

## Lovely

"They are lovely to be around and I've enjoyed getting to know their different characters."

"They are just really interesting animals and there is always something new to learn," she tells us.

Alpacas eat mostly grass which can be supplemented with hay or sugar beet during the winter months.

Their weight is regularly monitored and they are checked for worms.

Once a month they will also have their toe nails cut to help keep their feet in tip top condition.

It can take about six months to train one to walk on a lead and they offer people the chance to take their male alpacas for a stroll in the countryside.

"People like this because it's something a bit different and it's definitely not something you get to do every day. Whenever we have anyone visit, who doesn't know we have alpacas, we will always find them down here at some point talking to them. No one can resist them," she says.

"When you've had a bad day, there is nothing better than going into the field with the alpacas."

"They are very calming and they don't judge you."



Alpaca up your troubles – they are nature's stressbusters



Fruit of the loom – Caroline using the alpaca thread



Nice weave – some of the alpaca wool fabrics





# Volcanoes lie in wait on Indian Ocean island

Report by Verena Vogt



**WE'RE** 15 minutes into our helicopter flight when we suddenly lose speed, and the deafening sound of the rotor blades fades.

It's a rather worrying development considering we're flying high above a gorge with sheer vertical cliffs and no obvious place for an emergency landing.

But it seems our pilot has simply slowed down so we can get a good look at waterfalls cascading below us, and soon we're back at full speed, zipping over mountain ridges and into lush green valleys.

I'm on Reunion, a French overseas territory in the Indian Ocean, and our half-hour flight is the perfect introduction to this mountainous island.

Often overshadowed by its beach-ringed neighbour Mauritius, Reunion is an outdoor enthusiast's dream.

## AN ISLAND MADE OF MOUNTAINS

With its jungle interior and volcanic peaks rising to more than 3,000 metres, Reunion is particularly popular with hikers, as many of its natural wonders can only be discovered on foot – or by air.

Among them are the three cirques or calderas – tree-covered valley basins hidden deep inland that were created by collapsing volcanoes.

From the air, we spot the most remote of these, Mafate, which is dotted with tiny villages and only accessible via a two-day hike.

Our guide Alexis tells us that rafting and canyoning are other popular pastimes here, as is cycling – either along the 200km coastal road or, if you have the stamina, up the steep and winding roads to the island's interior.

## GETTING TO GRIPS WITH A VOLCANO

After an hour's drive further east, we stop at the Grand Brule, a 60-metre-wide hardened lava flow created by repeated outbursts of the Piton de la Fournaise, one of the world's most active volcanoes.

The eruptions that caused these flows also created lava tunnels – kilometre-long underground networks that can be explored on guided tours.

We follow along a slippery path, descend into a hole no more than two metres wide and find ourselves in a basalt tunnel that stretches for 700 metres up into the mountain, and all the way down to the sea.

Equipped with headlamps, we take a few steps before we switch off the lights and find ourselves in complete darkness.

A nice moment for some quiet reflection – until we hear scuttling noises. Are we being attacked by the white crabs that live in these tunnels? No, it turns out to be our guide playing a joke.

## A TASTE OF THE TROPICS

We decide to calm our nerves with food, and as we arrive at the local market in Saint-Paul, we're reminded that this is a slice of France in the middle of the Indian Ocean, with pain de campagne, macarons and brioche sitting alongside tropical fruit such as goyaviers (small and red with a slightly tangy taste) and combava (a wrinkled type of lime).

And everywhere we look, there is vanilla. It was on Reunion in 1841 that a young slave discovered vanilla orchids could be pollinated by hand, revolutionising the plant's cultivation, and there are still more than 100 vanilla producers on the island today.

It's a bargain too – A bundle of vanilla pods, vanilla powder and a brightly coloured bamboo vanilla pod container set me back a grand total of £12 (£10).



The Atrium bar at the hotel



The 61-room Ellenborough Hall Hotel is steeped in history



The outdoor pool is a place to relax

# Lord it up in Cotswolds but don't pay a packet

**FAVOURED** by a wealthy set sporting Barbour jackets and Hunter wellies, the Cotswolds is often painted as a country playground for celebrities and aristocrats temporarily tired of city life.

Plenty of boutique hotels and gastro-pubs nurture that nostalgic sentiment, but when it comes to attitudes and actual price points, the destination is far less "exclusive" than you might think.

## SLEEPING WITH A SLICE OF HISTORY

Pulling into the driveway at Ellenborough Park, a 61-room hotel, 20 minutes' drive from Cheltenham Spa train station, I can easily visualise myself as a member of the British aristocracy.

A Union Jack flutters from a turret crowning the butter-yellow brick facade which has weathered remarkably well since its incarnation in the 15th century. Modern wings have since been added, but the original structure – and atmosphere – of the former manor house is firmly intact.

Originally built in 1485 by a local farmer, Thomas Goodman – whose initials can still be seen above the original entrance – it survived the English Civil War and allegedly sheltered Oliver Cromwell.

Passing through several hands, who added grand staircases, oak panelling and bay windows, it eventually ended up with the Earl of Ellenborough in the 1800s, whose second wife, Jane Digby, reportedly caused scandal with her numerous affairs.

Until 1940, it was used as a school and then a hotel – finally renovated as Ellenborough Park in 2008.

## A DAY AT THE RACES

Located opposite Cheltenham Racecourse, the hotel naturally attracts sports fans on the race days which take place throughout the year.

Some wealthier spectators arrive by helicopter, explains our chauffeur, as we head along a private country trail belonging to the hotel. "During busy times, we get one every seven seconds," he claims, "making

## ON HOLIDAY

Report by Sarah Marshall

this the busiest landing site in Europe." Inside the course, crowds queue outside booths to place their bets – starting from as little as £1 – with various options to improve chances of winning.

Earnest punters with furrowed brows cluster around the parade ring, where horses are trotted around by trainers, trying to predict which animal might have the winning streak.

Others are more concerned with a parade of a different sort, dressed in layers of largely inappropriate designer garb, which would no doubt land them first place in the fashion stakes.

Horse racing, it seems, is something you can take as lightly – or as seriously – as you like. But even those who start slowly, soon catch the bug. Watching from the sidelines, I'm amazed how quickly spectators get swept up in a frenzy. Deep down – no matter how much they go home with – everyone wants to win.

## DINING IN STATELY STYLE

Fearing the irresistible lure of gambling (and inevitable failure) I refrain from placing any bets. Instead, I enjoy my prize back at the hotel – where cocktails have been prepared in Ellenborough's slick, revamped Atrium bar.

Last year, the property underwent a renovation, transforming two dining areas – the country pub-style The Horse Box and the more elegant The Restaurant. We opt for the private dining room worthy of a royal banquet, where executive chef David Williams – who has worked alongside Gordon Ramsay and Heston Blumenthal – presents a largely British menu.

After dinner we retire to The Great Hall, harking back to medieval times with its open fire and golden harp, and sneak up a winding stairwell to The Snug, a tiny room decorated with warm Moroccan furnishings.



An imposing view of the Istabraq Suite at Ellenborough Park Hotel

# Coastal town gives visitors many reasons to be happy



Woodbridge Tide Mill is a popular attraction

**LAST** year Woodbridge was voted in the top 10 happiest places to live in the UK – and for good reason.

Tucked into a corner of the Suffolk's curving coastline, it is packed like a hamper with all the elements of a perfect weekend break.

Nestled between fine breezy beaches and open stretches of wild countryside, the town boasts dining experiences to die for with a mixture of freshly caught seafood, a rich agricultural tradition and fine artisanal products.

To burn off the calories there are an abundance of scenic walks with ale-houses and cosy coffee houses lining all

routes. There are little wooden signs all over the place enticing visitors up winding paths, along creeks or the tranquil Deben estuary.

At the water's edge, near the ancient Tide Mill and marina, you can follow a meandering river walk for miles.

Woodbridge also boasts a millennium's worth of visible history waiting to be explored. The spectacular ship burial at Sutton Hoo – with its tale of kingship, mystery and buried treasure – is almost guaranteed to appeal to children.

The town is also currently playing host to the Medieval Mosaic – a record-breaking replica of the Bayeux Tapestry which is touring the UK.

If sci-fi is more interesting to you than

history, Woodbridge does not disappoint either. This is Britain's Roswell.

In the 1980s US Air Force staff reported seeing the mysterious lights of a UFO in nearby Rendlesham Forest and the area is still a hotbed for conspiracy theorists and, more recently, fans of Stranger Things.

If shopping is your favourite pastime on a minibreak, Woodbridge is choc-a-block with independent stores.

These cover every type of item from DIY and craft supplies to wool shops, outdoor clothing, boutiques, deli cook shops, tailors, and even a violin shop.

Frequent markets are also held on the Market Hill in the shadow of the Shire Hall.



# Enjoy a fairytale time at lovely Lake District



Enjoy sandwiches and cakes in front of the fire at the hotel



A view across the water at Grasmere



Prices for a double room start at £99 with breakfast

## ON HOLIDAY

Report by Mark Andrews

**TARN, now there's a word I haven't used for some time. Not since studying for geography O-level back in the 1980s.**

"An amphitheatre-like mountain lake created by a glacier", that's a tarn.

But as we climbed the brisk ascent to the stunning Easedale Tarn, the days of fretting about contour lines and rock formations couldn't have been further from our thoughts.

William Wordsworth once described the Lake District village of Grasmere as "the loveliest spot that man hath ever found". And as we headed out of the village, up the splendidly named Sour Milk Gill towards the aforementioned tarn, it seemed very hard to disagree. The weather helped, of course. Bracing, certainly, but as the glorious winter sunshine reflected off the glittering waterfall, with the snow-capped peaks in the distance behind, it was hard not to feel at one with the world.

### Famous

Wordsworth is Grasmere's most famous son, but it is another famous writer to hail from the Lake District who is putting the area in the spotlight at the moment.

The new Peter Rabbit movie, which opens at cinemas this week, makes extensive use of Cumbria's stunning landscapes in its location filming. Those familiar with the area will easily recognise Crescent Road in Windermere village, just up the hill from England's largest natural lake. But closer inspection also reveals the quaint grey-stone buildings of Ambleside – a small market town between Windermere and Grasmere – are also featured.

It is not hard to see why Ambleside, with its enchanting Victorian shops on the hillside, and its 17th century Bridge House,



The four-star Wordsworth Hotel in Grasmere is the perfect place to relax after a brisk walk

was chosen as a filming location. Indeed, it is only to easy too while away a sunny day, well, ambling along its winding streets, nipping in and out the assorted bakeries, confectioners and book shops

But the big draw for Beatrix Potter fans is undoubtedly at Bowness-on-Windermere, the sprawling lakeside tourist hotspot, where you will find The World Of Beatrix Potter. This attraction, made up of a network of three-dimensional models of the author's best-loved characters, tell the story of how her books were inspired by her childhood visits to the Lakes.

Her debut story, The Tale of Peter Rabbit, was actually a letter to a poorly five-year-old boy she wrote in 1893, but when

she self-published it eight years later, it sold like hot cakes. This success finally allowed her to buy a farm in Sawrey, near Hawkshead, which would become the setting for many of the novels that followed, including the tales of Tom Kitten and Jemima Puddle-Duck. Now owned by the National Trust, Hill Top House is a popular attraction that has been preserved close to how it was in Potter's Day.

For a real essence of the Lakes, though, it is hard to go wrong with Grasmere, where we spent the morning walking around the lake which gives the village its name, and then the afternoon on the long climb to Easedale. The four-star Wordsworth Hotel, next to the writer's home, is the perfect

place to relax after a brisk walk around the lakes, be it with afternoon tea in the conservatory, or reclining in the armchairs around the roaring log fire. There is also a spa with pools, sauna and whirlpool bath, and an excellent bar.

The two AA rosette Signature restaurant offers an excellent four-course menu in plush surroundings with an excellent wine list, but we opted for the more rustic Dove Bistro, which shares the same kitchen, and serves up a mean steak with home-made chips and a choice of local ales.

Stunning views, great food, beautiful beers – plus a bit of sunshine and the famous Grasmere gingerbread. That's what you call a fairytale ending.

# Look after yourself at retreat in Kefalonia

Report by Jemma Crew



**AS I set up my mat between ancient trees that poke through the circular wooden Armonia yoga deck – which means harmony in Greek – my lungs are grateful for the fresh mountain, forest and sea air.**

I perform sun salutations while birds chirp away in the treetops above, and waves end their journey with a soft crash on the shore below. I'm watched solemnly by one of around a dozen adopted cats that roam F Zeen resort.

Hidden away on an Ionian hillside, in the shadow of Mount Ainos, nestled into sloping forest that rolls down onto Lourdas seafront, this adult-only wellness retreat enjoys the best of Kefalonia's bewitching landscapes.

### WHY IS KEFALONIA A RECHARGE RETREAT?

Kefalonia – the largest of the cluster of Ionian Islands dotted along the west coast of the Greek mainland – is also one of the least densely populated.

It is incredibly green and lush, with Mount Ainos – the dramatic backdrop that towers above F Zeen – classified as the only national park on a Greek island.

An earthquake in 1953 caused widespread damage to the island, leaving 90 per cent of its buildings in pieces and causing many islanders to flee.

The Kefalonia that was rebuilt from the rubble is equal parts charm and tradition, and relatively unspoilt compared to more developed Greek islands popular with Europe's younger crowd.

### WHAT'S THE F ZEEN STORY?

F Zeen was a term in ancient Greek used to sum up "the good life", and the resort does everything it can to promote an ethos where, as Hippocrates said, "everything in excess is opposed to nature".

Open for its first full season in 2016, it's truly a family affair, with mother, father, sons and daughter all involved in the day-to-day running.

Matriarch Suzanne Koumoudos, who with her Greek husband Dennis owns a sprawling collection of luxury Kefalonian villas, tells me that food has always been a huge family passion, and that when they went on holiday, they were always looking for a hotel with a gym, so they could indulge.

And so the idea for F Zeen was born, set in the midst of 20 acres of cypress, eucalyptus and pine trees, that have been in the family for hundreds of years.

With pared back yet luxurious nature-inspired rooms, three freshwater swimming pools, Jacuzzis, a spa, daily group gym and yoga classes, it's an inspiring place to slow down and reconnect with yourself.

### DO YOU NEED TO BE A YOGA BUNNY TO ENJOY THE SPACE?

Yoga teacher Anastasia Koumoudos gently guides groups through a series of rejuvenating and relaxing poses, but guests can use the equipment whenever they like. For the more adventurous, aerial yoga sessions can be arranged.

A split-level outdoor gym – complete with cardio machines, free weights, personal training sessions and a sublime sea view – is also available.

Steps away from the retreat at F Zeen's on-the-beach activity hub, guests can take out paddleboards and kayaks for no extra cost. They can also borrow bikes and maps of local hikes.

### WHAT'S THE SPA LIKE?

The spa uses organic seaweed from the Irish Sea, sourced by the family-run company Voya.

A small team of therapists use hand-harvested leaves in treatments, including baths, massages, masks and wraps for their antioxidant and anti-ageing properties.

My city-polluted skin is treated to a detoxifying Anti-ageing Restorative Facial (E90/£79) which I enjoy, notwithstanding the pungent marine aroma which assails my nostrils as strips of slimy seaweed are slathered on to my neck and chest.

For sun-scorched skin a must-try is the spa's After Sun Oasis (E50/£44) – a heady mix of lavender, aloe vera and avocado oil, forming a perfect soothing combination to calm and nourish.

## £1 million bid to attract German tourists to eastern England



York Minster is a popular landmark

**A PARTNERSHIP of destinations from Hertfordshire to Northumberland, including York, has secured a £1 million investment from the Discover England Fund to encourage more German visitors to explore the city and Eastern England.**

The money will be spent on creating a visitor destinations, honey pots such as York, as well as spots that are off the beaten track.

New itineraries will be developed that bring together attractions, accommoda-

tion options, places to eat and activities to create a route that is culturally rich and quintessentially English.

Germany has been chosen as the target market because touring is a familiar and well-loved holiday choice for German holidaymakers and because there is good travel connectivity with Eastern England.

### Delighted

The project has an emphasis on helping businesses to operate in the international market and make them bookable by independent travellers as well as tour operators and travel agents who are influential with German travellers.

Sally Greenaway, Head of Visit York,

said, "York has so much to offer for international visitors and this project will especially help us to attract more people from Germany to visit and enjoy the city.

"We're delighted to have won our bid to take part in this new campaign which will make it easier for people to plan and book a trip to York and tour the rest of Eastern England."

York attracts almost quarter of a million overseas visitors each year, of which more than a third come from Europe.

Germany is its top European source market and the third biggest international source market overall – behind the US and China – with seven per cent of all overseas visitors arriving from the country.



# April 14



## Casualty

8.35pm

Bea treats a shopkeeper who has collapsed during a robbery, but faces a dilemma when she begins to suspect two brothers in her care are the men responsible for the crime.



## Today at the Games

6.30pm

Clare Balding and Gabby Logan round up the best of the action from day 10 of the Commonwealth Games in Queensland, where athletics, diving, boxing and hockey dominated the schedule.



## Legally Blonde

10.15pm

A dizzy teenager enrolls at Harvard to try to prove to her ex-boyfriend that she is not stupid, but finds herself out of her depth. Comedy, with Reese Witherspoon and Luke Wilson.



## Britain's Most Historic Towns

8pm

Alice Roberts tells the story of Viking England by studying the history of York, taking part in a Viking battle and meeting the people behind a memorable archaeological find.



## Football on 5: The Championship

9pm

Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games, including Norwich City v Cardiff City and Middlesbrough v Bristol City.

## BBC1

6.00 Breakfast.

10.00 **Saturday Kitchen.** Host Matt Tebbutt is joined by singer and presenter Alesha Dixon, and chefs Joe Hurd and Tony Singh, while Jane Parkinson selects the wines to go with the studio dishes.

11.30 **Classic Mary Berry.** Recipes that have moved in and out of fashion. (R)

12.00 **Football Focus.** Dan Walker and guests review the week's headlines and look ahead to forthcoming Premier League fixtures, including Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester City and Liverpool v Bournemouth.

1.00 **BBC News; Weather.**

1.15 **Commonwealth Games 2018.** Jason Mohammad introduces highlights of day 10 from Queensland, where 44 gold medals were decided in sports such as athletics, boxing, hockey, road cycling and diving.

4.30 **Final Score.** Round-up of football results.

5.30 **A Question of Sport.** With Marion Bartoli, Dominic Cork, Barry McGuigan, and Martin Offiah. (R)

6.00 **Doodlebugs.** Sketch show in which inanimate objects share their thoughts on the world. With the voices of Kayvan Novak, Cardinal Burns, Morgana Robinson and Spencer Jones. Last in the series.

6.15 **Ready or Not.** Something fruity is happening at a market stall in Plymouth in the game show featuring unsuspecting members of the public facing surprise challenges while going about their lives.

6.45 **BBC News.**

6.55 **Midlands Today; Weather.**

7.05 **Pointless Celebrities.** Actors Danny John-Jules, Nigel Lindsay, Liz Carr, Lisa Hammond, Trudie Goodwin, Lisa Maxwell, Bill Maynard and Tricia Penrose compete in the general knowledge quiz.

7.55 **Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles presents the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.

8.35 **Casualty.** Bea treats a shopkeeper who has collapsed during a robbery, but faces a dilemma when she begins to suspect two brothers in her care are the men responsible for the crime.

9.30 **Mrs Brown's Boys.** Agnes ends up at the wrong venue after trying to gatecrash Maria's hen party. She then tries to impress the bride-to-be's mother during a dinner date, but the evening ends in chaos. (R)

10.00 **BBC News; National Lottery Update.**

10.20 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester City at Wembley Stadium and Liverpool v Bournemouth at Anfield.

11.45 **Commonwealth Games 2018.** JJ Chalmers introduces live coverage as the 11th and final day of the Games continues in Queensland.

3.30 **Commonwealth Games 2018.** JJ Chalmers presents live netball, squash and rugby sevens coverage, as the 11th and final day of the Games in Queensland continues.

## BBC2

6.00 **Commonwealth Games 2018.** Hazel Irvine introduces live coverage as the 10th and penultimate day of the Games continues in Queensland, featuring athletics, netball, road cycling and rugby sevens.

10.00 **Commonwealth Games 2018.** Gabby Logan and Clare Balding present live coverage as the 10th and penultimate day of the Games continues in Queensland, featuring diving and squash.

12.00 **Commonwealth Games 2018.** Gabby Logan and Clare Balding introduce live coverage of the men's 10m platform diving final, as the 10th and penultimate day of the Games concludes in Queensland.

1.15 **MasterChef: The Finals.** The final week of the cookery challenge gets under way with the five contenders having to cater a lunch hosted by Lord and Lady Fitzalan-Howard at Carlton Towers, North Yorkshire. (R)

2.15 **MasterChef: The Finals.** The final four amateur cooks embark on a culinary adventure to Peru, where they take part in a series of challenges, including recreating Peruvian dishes for local fishermen. (R)

3.15 **Escape to the Continent.** Nicki Chapman takes a Buckinghamshire family to the island of Malta, where they hope to make a complete life change on a budget of £200,000. (R)

4.15 **Money for Nothing.** Sarah Moore transforms items reclaimed from a tip in Witley, Surrey. (R)

4.45 **Flog It!** From Margam Country Park. (R)

5.30 **Living with the Brainsy Bunch.** Two struggling 15-year-old students move in with high achievers. (R)

6.30 **Today at the Games.** Clare Balding and Gabby Logan round up the best of the action from day 10 of the Commonwealth Games in Queensland, where athletics, diving, boxing and hockey dominated the schedule.

8.00 **The Forest.** New series. Mark Bonnar narrates a documentary following the people who live and work in Galloway Forest Park, where 600,000 tons of timber is produced every year.

8.30 **Dad's Army.** Jonesy's van runs out of petrol and the platoon is forced to spend the night in a spooky deserted house, where the men's imaginations soon run wild. (R)

9.00 **Gettys: The World's Richest Art Dynasty.**

10.15 **Commonwealth Games 2018.** JJ Chalmers presents live coverage as the 11th and final day of the Games gets under way in Queensland, featuring the men's and women's marathons at Southport Broadwater Parklands.

11.45 **FILM: Swingers (1996).** A failed actor struggling to get over a break-up is dragged into the singles scene by a friend in the hope of regaining his confidence. Comedy, with Jon Favreau.

1.15 **Civilisations.** Simon Schama looks at the links between colour and spirituality, exploring the French cathedrals of Amiens and Chartres, Japanese woodblocks and Matisse's great chapel at Vence. (R)

2.15 **Weather for the Week Ahead.**

2.20 **BBC News.**

## ITV

6.00 **CITV: Sooty 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.45 Super 4 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story 7.00 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures 7.25 The Tom and Jerry Show 7.30 Teen Titans Go! 7.45 Adventure Time 8.00 Thunderbirds Are Go**

8.25 **ITV News.**

8.30 **Zoe Ball on Saturday.** New series. Weekend chat show, with guests Michael Sheen, Chris Ramsey and Greg James.

9.25 **James Martin's Saturday Morning.** With guests Anton Du Beke and Brian Turner.

11.25 **Who's Doing the Dishes?** With Bucks Fizz star Jay Aston. (R)

12.20 **ITV News and Weather; Weather.**

12.25 **Change Your Tune.** Baz Ashmawy hosts the musical game show. (R)

1.30 **Britain's Brightest Family.** Two families compete in the first semi-final. (R)

2.00 **ITV Racing: Grand National Festival.** Live coverage of four races.

4.35 **ITV Racing Live: The Grand National.** Ed Chamberlin and Francesca Cumani present live coverage from Aintree.

6.15 **ITV News and Weather.**

6.25 **ITV News Central; Weather.**

6.30 **Ninja Warrior UK.** New series. Competitors from across the UK test their strength, speed and courage in this obstacle-course challenge, hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara.

7.30 **Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule.** New series. The madcap panel show returns, with Micky Flanagan, Robert Peston, Sally Dynevor and Annika Rice tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion.

8.00 **Britain's Got Talent.** New series. Ant McPartlin and Declan Donnelly host the talent search, which sees acts competing to impress judges Simon Cowell, Alesha Dixon, Amanda Holden and David Walliams.

9.25 **The Keith & Paddy Picture Show.** New series. Keith Lemon and Paddy McGuinness remake Grease, with the help of special guests including Stacey Solomon, Nicole Scherzinger, Feame Cotton and Marvin Humes.

9.55 **ITV News and Weather; Weather.**

10.15 **FILM: Legally Blonde (2001).** A dizzy teenager enrolls at Harvard to try to prove to her ex-boyfriend that she is not stupid, but finds herself out of her depth. Comedy, with Reese Witherspoon and Luke Wilson.

12.05 **Marcella.** Acting on information gleaned from Eric and Joel, Marcella rushes to the killer's house and finds Edward's ringing phone – triggering a blackout. Last in the series. (R)

12.55 **Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.

3.00 **Babushka.** Game show hosted by Rylan Clark-Neal in which contestants open a set of giant Russian nesting dolls, with some empty and others containing prizes up to £10,000. (R)

3.50 **ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.

## Channel 4

6.15 **Motor Sport: Mini Challenge.** Action from round one at Oulton Park.

6.45 **The King of Queens.** Arthur does jury duty. (R)

7.10 **The King of Queens.** Doug discusses holidays. (R)

7.35 **The King of Queens.** Arthur is inspired by a book. (R)

8.00 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** An injured bird upsets the Thanksgiving celebrations. (R)

8.30 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray uncovers a shocking secret. (R)

9.00 **Frasier.** A lawyer begins dating Frasier. (R)

9.30 **Frasier.** Samantha ends her relationship with Frasier. (R)

10.00 **Frasier.** A story is told from four perspectives. (R)

10.30 **The Big Bang Theory.** Leonard argues with Penny. (R)

11.00 **The Big Bang Theory.** Leonard, Raj and Howard go camping. (R)

11.30 **The Big Bang Theory.** Kripke plays a prank on Sheldon. (R)

12.00 **The Simpsons.** Mr Burns replaces the power plant employees with robots. (R)

12.30 **The Simpsons.** Homer and the family are forced to leave town. (R)

1.00 **Formula 1 Chinese Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.** Action from the battle for pole position.

2.30 **Car SOS.** Fuzz Townshend and Tim Shaw enlist the help of Roger Moore. (R)

3.30 **The Restoration Man.** Transforming an Edwardian Baptist church into a five-bedroom family home. (R)

4.30 **A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.** Ben Hillman finds properties for newlyweds Bill and Michael. (R)

5.35 **The Secret Life of the Zoo.** A Sumatran tiger faces losing its sons, who are being moved to other zoos. (R)

6.30 **Channel 4 News.**

7.00 **Coastal Railways with Julie Walters.** The actress travels from Cardigan Bay to Liverpool, visiting the heritage railway that inspired Thomas the Tank Engine and the fastest zip wire in Europe. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 **Britain's Most Historic Towns.** Alice Roberts tells the story of Viking England by studying the history of York, taking part in a Viking battle and meeting the people behind a memorable archaeological find.

9.00 **FILM: Thor (2011).** The Norse god of thunder is banished to present-day Earth, which he must defend from his evil brother. Fantasy adventure, starring Chris Hemsworth and Natalie Portman.

11.15 **FILM: Big Game (2014).** A teenage hunter helps the US president to escape from terrorists pursuing him through the Finnish wilderness. Action adventure, with Samuel L Jackson and Onni Tommila.

12.55 **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA.** (R)

1.45 **Hollyoaks.** Omnibus. Ste and Leela clash over the best way to take care of Tegan. (R)

3.55 **Building the Dream.** Charlie Luxton helps first-time self-builders in Gloucestershire. (R)

4.50 **The Question Jury.** (R)

5.45 **Steph and Dom's One Star to Five Star.** (R)

## Channel 5

6.00 **Milkshake!** Little Princess 6.10 Wissper 6.20 Milkshake! Monkey 6.25 The Secret Life of Puppies 6.30 Mofy 6.35 Simon 6.40 Peppa Pig 6.45 Paw Patrol 7.00 Thomas & Friends 7.15 Fireman Sam 7.30 Olly the Little White Van 7.45 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.10 Paw Patrol 8.25 Nella the Princess Knight 8.45 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.55 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.10 Shimmer and Shine 9.30 Digby Dragon 9.45 Peppa Pig 9.50 Peppa Pig

9.55 **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** Renet transports the team to Transylvania to stop Savanti Romero from recruiting Dracula.

10.30 **The Gadget Show.** A family find out how easy their gadgets are to hack. (R)

11.30 **Traffic Cops.** The police pursue a team of suspected car thieves. (R)

12.30 **Traffic Cops.** An insight into the working life of officers patrolling Yorkshire's roads. (R)

1.30 **Traffic Cops: On the Edge.** A speeding young driver writes his car off in a spectacular fireball. (R)

2.30 **Live Aviva Premiership Rugby Union.** Leicester Tigers v Northampton Saints (Kick-off 3.00pm).

5.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Two enforcement agents make a shocking discovery in a child's bedroom. (R)

6.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Enforcement agents are faced with the difficult job of evicting a woman with two children – a task that takes a turn for the worse when her ex-partner makes an appearance. (R)

7.00 **The Secret Life of Owls.** Part two of two. Missing Claw and Stripetail now have three chicks, who must learn how to fly, hunt and pounce. Meanwhile, five tawny owl chicks arrive from a local wildlife centre.

8.00 **QE2: The World's Greatest Cruise Ship.** Part one of two. Documentary telling the story behind the problems that almost spelled the end of the Queen Elizabeth 2 before she was finished. (R)

8.55 **5 News Weekend.**

9.00 **Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games, including Norwich City v Cardiff City, Middlesbrough v Bristol City and Aston Villa v Leeds United.

10.00 **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Charlton Athletic v Scunthorpe United and Grimsby Town v Barnet.

10.30 **20 Moments That Rocked the 00s.** Lauren Laverne presents a countdown of some of the most memorable moments from the decade, featuring a look at world-changing news stories and entertainment headlines. (R)

12.00 **SuperCasino.** Live interactive gaming.

3.10 **Murder on the Internet.** (R)

4.00 **The Murderer Next Door: Countdown to Murder.** (R)

4.45 **House Doctor.** (R)

5.10 **Divine Designs.** (R)

5.35 **Wildlife SOS.** (R)

# The Ticket

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**The Big Painting Challenge**  
*6pm*  
The contestants face a test of their portrait-painting skills at RAF Hendon, and discover the different challenges presented by painting older and younger subjects.



**Today at the Games**  
*6.30pm*  
Clare Balding and Gabby Logan round up the best of the action from day 11 of the Commonwealth Games in Queensland, as the event was brought to its conclusion.



**The Durrells**  
*8pm*  
An Italian family arrive on the island, provoking jealousy in Louisa, who begins to suspect there is something suspicious about the new arrivals after inviting them over.



**Homeland**  
*9pm*  
Carrie has problems at home. Saul and Wellington work on Paley. Espionage drama, starring Claire Danes, Mandy Patinkin and Linus Roache. With Elizabeth Marvel and Amy Hargreaves.



**Meghan and Harry: In Their Own Words**  
*9pm*  
Documentary examining interviews, speeches and social media posts by the royal couple to reveal a full picture of their lives before they became public.

BBC1	
6.00	<b>Breakfast.</b>
7.30	<b>Match of the Day.</b> Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester City at Wembley Stadium and Liverpool v Bournemouth at Anfield. (R)
9.00	<b>The Andrew Marr Show.</b>
10.00	<b>The Big Questions.</b> Nicky Campbell presents a debate on the future of the NHS from Manor CE Academy, York.
11.00	<b>Homes Under the Hammer.</b> Martin investigates a property with three flats in Barry, Wales. Lucy catches up on a building project in Denham, Buckinghamshire, and Dion looks round a Gainsborough house. (R)
12.00	<b>Bargain Hunt.</b> Jonathan Pratt and David Harper offer advice to two teams at the Staffordshire County Showground. Tim Wonnacott visits Georgian town house No 1 Royal Crescent in Bath. (R)
1.00	<b>BBC News;</b> Weather.
1.15	<b>MasterChef: The Finals.</b> The hopefuls work alongside chefs Ashley Palmer-Watts and Jonny Glass. (R)
2.15	<b>MasterChef: The Final.</b> The last three cooks vie to become the show's 14th champion. Last in the series. (R)
3.15	<b>Escape to the Country.</b> Alistair Appleton goes property shopping in Exmoor with a newlywed couple. (R)
4.00	<b>Lifeline.</b> An appeal on behalf of the Royal Society for Blind Children.
4.10	<b>Songs of Praise.</b> Christian charity workers around the world.
4.45	<b>Pointless Celebrities.</b> The stars of the 1970s compete in the general knowledge quiz. (R)
5.35	<b>BBC News.</b>
5.50	<b>Midlands Today; Weather.</b>
6.00	<b>The Big Painting Challenge.</b> The contestants face a test of their portrait-painting skills at RAF Hendon, and discover the different challenges presented by painting older and younger subjects.
7.00	<b>Countryfile.</b> Matt Baker and Anita Rani present the show from Cumbria. Featuring a new section of the England Coast Path and a trail documenting the life of artist Percy Kelly. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
8.00	<b>Antiques Roadshow.</b> The team visits the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley, where Geoffrey Munn examines a Fabergé jewel, commissioned by the Countess of Dudley in 1903.
9.00	<b>Ordeal by Innocence.</b> The Argyls relive the events of Rachel's death to uncover the truth. However, they soon discover that everyone in the family had a reason to kill her. Last in the series.
10.00	<b>BBC News.</b>
10.20	<b>Midlands Today; Weather.</b>
10.30	<b>Match of the Day 2.</b> Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, with highlights of Newcastle United v Arsenal at St James' Park and Manchester United v West Bromwich Albion at Old Trafford.
11.30	<b>FILM: The Peacemaker (1997).</b> Action thriller, with George Clooney and Nicole Kidman.
1.25	<b>Weather for the Week Ahead.</b>
1.30	<b>BBC News.</b>

BBC2	
6.00	<b>Commonwealth Games 2018.</b> Live coverage of the men's rugby sevens final at Robina Stadium, as the 11th and final day of the Games in Queensland reaches its conclusion.
9.15	<b>Commonwealth Games: Closing Ceremony 2018.</b> Clare Balding presents live coverage from Carrara Stadium in the city of Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia, as the 21st staging of the Games is officially brought to a close.
3.00	<b>Live Women's FA Cup Football.</b> Chelsea Ladies v Manchester City Women (Kick-off 3.30pm). Coverage of the semi-final, which takes place at Cherry Red Records Stadium in Kingston upon Thames. The opening semi-final between Everton Ladies and Arsenal Ladies is available on the Red Button from 12.15pm.
5.30	<b>Flog It!</b> The team values antiques at Blackpool Tower Circus, where terracotta tomb figures and a collection of seaside postcards come under scrutiny from the experts. (R)
6.30	<b>Today at the Games.</b> Clare Balding and Gabby Logan round up the best of the action from day 11 of the Commonwealth Games in Queensland, as the event was brought to its conclusion.
8.00	<b>Britain's Biggest Warship.</b> New series. Life on board aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth, as she is taken to sea for the first time on sea trials that push ship and crew to breaking point.
9.00	<b>My Year with the Tribe.</b> New series. Writer Will Millard lives with a tribe in Indonesia to understand the pressures they face in adapting to a modern world they have only known in the past 40 years.
10.00	<b>Famalam.</b> New series. Comedy sketch show, featuring a misunderstood superhero, Croydon's leading witch doctor, and some much-needed cultural diversity in Midsomer Murders.
10.20	<b>FILM: The Homesman (2014).</b> A frontier woman persuades an outlaw to help her lead three traumatised women across the wilderness. Western, directed by and starring Tommy Lee Jones, with Hilary Swank.
12.15	<b>FILM: The Hunters (1996).</b> A policeman returns to his home village from Stockholm, but discovers his brother is caught up in the case he is investigating. Crime drama, with Rolf Lassgård and Lennart Hähnel.
2.05	<b>Sign Zone: Question Time.</b> Topical debate from Liverpool, chaired by David Dimbleby. (R)
3.05	<b>Sign Zone: Holby City.</b> A revelation about Gaskell forces Roxanna to choose where her loyalties lie, and still on probation, Ric risks his job to save a familiar face. (R)
4.05	<b>This is BBC2.</b> Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC2.

ITV	
6.00	<b>CITV: Sooty 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.45 Super 4 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story 7.00 Thunderbirds Are Go 7.25 The Tom and Jerry Show 7.30 Teen Titans Go! 7.45 Adventure Time 8.00 The Haunted Hathaways</b>
8.25	<b>ITV News.</b>
8.30	<b>Zoe Ball on Sunday.</b> With the Saturdays' Mollie King and music by Lissie.
9.25	<b>Love Your Garden.</b> A couple who founded a charity to support bereaved families. (R)
10.00	<b>Peston on Sunday.</b> Political magazine.
11.00	<b>Britain's Got Talent.</b> Ant McPartlin and Declan Donnelly host the nationwide talent search. (R)
12.20	<b>Britain's Got More Talent.</b> Stephen Mulhern meets some of the unseen contestants. (R)
1.20	<b>ITV News and Weather;</b> Weather.
1.30	<b>Ninja Warrior UK.</b> Obstacle-course challenge, with Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara. (R)
2.30	<b>You've Been Framed!</b> Featuring a drone flying into a child's face. (R)
3.00	<b>Tipping Point.</b> Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)
4.00	<b>Change Your Tune.</b> Baz Ashmawy hosts the musical game show.
5.00	<b>The Chase: Celebrity Special.</b> With Kaye Adams, Mark Bright, Jayne Torvill and Richard Arnold. (R)
6.00	<b>Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule.</b> The madcap panel show returns, with Micky Flanagan, Robert Peston, Sally Dynevor and Annela Rice tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion. (R)
6.30	<b>ITV News and Weather.</b>
6.45	<b>ITV News Central;</b> Weather.
7.00	<b>Celebrity Catchphrase.</b> Stephen Mulhern hosts a celebrity special of the game show, with Ellie Simmonds, Fay Ripley and Jimmy Carr guessing the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. (R)
8.00	<b>The Durrells.</b> An Italian family arrive on the island, provoking jealousy in Louisa, who begins to suspect there is something suspicious about the new arrivals after inviting them over.
9.00	<b>The Good Karma Hospital.</b> The team tries to save survivors from a collapsed building. Ruby discovers a secret concerning one of her patients, and Ram helps a woman whose husband is missing.
10.00	<b>ITV News and Weather;</b> Weather.
10.20	<b>Peston on Sunday.</b> Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with Allegra Stratton. (R)
11.15	<b>This Time Next Year.</b> More participants take on 12-month challenges, including parents hoping to transform their deaf baby girl's life. Davina McCall presents. (R)
12.10	<b>Jackpot247.</b> Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00	<b>Take on the Twisters.</b> Quiz show, presented by Julia Bradbury. (R)
3.50	<b>ITV Nightscreen.</b> Text-based information service.

Channel 4	
6.15	<b>The King of Queens.</b> Doug tells too many home truths. (R)
6.40	<b>The King of Queens.</b> Doug makes an unsettling discovery. (R)
7.05	<b>Everybody Loves Raymond.</b> Debra helps plan a recruitment party. (R)
7.30	<b>Everybody Loves Raymond.</b> Ally babysits the twins. (R)
7.55	<b>Everybody Loves Raymond.</b> Ray worries about losing his children's respect. (R)
8.25	<b>Eat the Week.</b> Simon Rimmer helps a family deal with different dietary demands. (R)
9.30	<b>Sunday Brunch.</b> With guests Lily Brazier, John Newman, Frank Skinner and Jodie Kidd.
12.30	<b>The Simpsons.</b> Homer and Bart become con-artists. (R)
1.00	<b>The Simpsons.</b> The children are trapped in school. (R)
1.30	<b>The Simpsons.</b> Bart falls for Rainier Wolfcastle's daughter. (R)
2.00	<b>Formula 1 Chinese Grand Prix Highlights.</b> Action from the third round of the season.
4.30	<b>Speed with Guy Martin: F1 Challenge.</b> The motorcycle racer joins a Formula One pit crew. (R)
5.30	<b>Grand Designs.</b> Building a family home in a village in the Peak District. (R)
6.30	<b>Channel 4 News.</b>
7.00	<b>Escape to the Chateau.</b> Dick and Angel try to live self-sufficiently, and invest in some chickens to provide them with eggs. However, they are still without heat and water and the 59 windows are crumbling. (R)
8.00	<b>The Crystal Maze.</b> New series. Richard Ayoade guides the Hauxwell family through the four zones of the Maze, tackling a range of skill, mystery, physical and mental challenges.
9.00	<b>Homeland.</b> Carrie has problems at home. Saul and Wellington work on Paley.
10.05	<b>Lifeline.</b> Spanish drama, starring Pablo Derqui as a surgeon who begins having visions after undergoing a heart transplant that inspire him to discover how the donor died.
11.00	<b>8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.</b> Jonathan Ross, Lee Mack and Victoria Coren Mitchell join regulars Jon Richardson and Jimmy Carr for the words-and-numbers game. (R)
12.05	<b>FILM: Out of the Furnace (2013).</b> A steelworker takes matters into his own hands when his brother disappears after getting involved with gangsters. Crime thriller, starring Christian Bale and Woody Harrelson.
2.10	<b>FILM: Hotel Salvation (2016).</b> Premiere. A man struggles to cope with his responsibilities when he accompanies his father to a holy city where he intends to die. Comedy drama, with Adil Hussain and Lalit Behl.
3.50	<b>KOTV Boxing Weekly.</b> Including Kell Brook v Sergey Rabchenko.
4.20	<b>Gillette World Sport.</b> Including a serving masterclass with tennis coach Patrick Mouratoglou.
4.45	<b>The Question Jury.</b> (R)
5.40	<b>Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free.</b> Kirstie Allsopp helps people furnish their homes with furniture sourced for free. (R)

Channel 5	
6.00	<b>Milkshake!:</b> Little Princess 6.10 Wisper 6.20 The Mr Men Show 6.30 Milkshake! Monkey 6.35 The Secret Life of Puppies 6.40 Mofy 6.45 Simon 6.50 Simon 6.55 Peppa Pig 7.05 Paw Patrol 7.15 Thomas & Friends 7.25 Fireman Sam 7.35 Olly the Little White Van 7.50 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.15 Paw Patrol 8.35 Nella the Princess Knight 8.50 Noddy: Toyland Detective 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.15 Shimmer and Shine 9.30 Digby Dragon 9.45 Peppa Pig 9.55 Peppa Pig
10.00	<b>Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.</b> Savanti tries to take control of Frankenstein's monster.
10.35	<b>Football on 5: The Championship.</b> Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games. (R)
11.20	<b>Football on 5: Goal Rush.</b> All the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two. (R)
11.50	<b>FIA Formula E.</b> The Rome ePrix.
12.50	<b>Traffic Cops: Under Attack.</b> Thieves smash through closed level crossing barriers. (R)
1.45	<b>All New Traffic Cops.</b> Officers crack down on uninsured drivers. (R)
2.45	<b>FILM: A Royal Night Out (2015).</b> Comedy drama, starring Bel Powley and Sarah Gadon.
3.45	<b>5 News Update.</b>
3.50	<b>FILM: A Royal Night Out (2015).</b> Concluded.
4.40	<b>FILM: The Hundred-Foot Journey (2014).</b> Comedy drama, starring Helen Mirren.
5.40	<b>5 News Update.</b>
5.45	<b>FILM: The Hundred-Foot Journey (2014).</b> Concluded.
6.55	<b>5 News Weekend.</b>
7.00	<b>Royal Babies: The Crown and the Crib.</b> Documentary exploring the lives of babies within the British monarchy, and assessing how royal approaches have changed over time. (R)
8.00	<b>Meghan Markle: The First 100 Days.</b> Profile of Prince Harry's fiancée, examining her first engagements as a member of the royal family and questioning what influence she may have on the monarchy in the future.
9.00	<b>Meghan and Harry: In Their Own Words.</b> Documentary examining interviews, speeches and social media posts by the royal couple to reveal a full picture of their lives before and after their relationship became public.
10.00	<b>FILM: The Dater's Handbook (2016).</b> Premiere. When a woman turns to a relationship self-help book for advice, she finds herself torn between two men. Romantic comedy, starring Meghan Markle and Kristoffer Polaha.
11.45	<b>Inside Kensington Palace: Fit for a Princess.</b> The history of famous buildings, beginning by going behind the scenes of the royal residence, home to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and Prince Harry. (R)
1.10	<b>SuperCasino.</b> Live interactive gaming.
3.10	<b>Secrets of the Great Yorkshire Castle.</b> (R)
4.00	<b>My Mum's Hotter Than Me! (R)</b>
4.45	<b>House Doctor.</b> (R)
5.10	<b>Divine Designs.</b> (R)
5.35	<b>Wildlife SOS.</b> (R)

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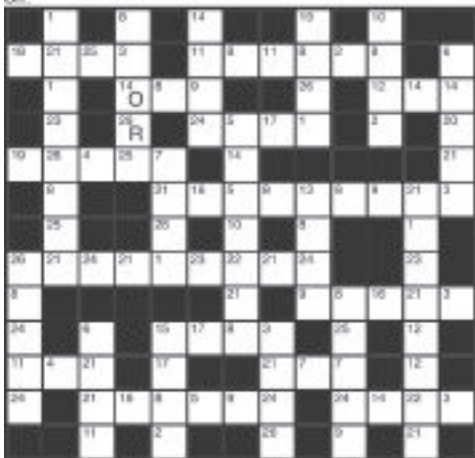
Beverly Thompson

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## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26
	R

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
P	F	S	Y	V	N	G	E	T	B	I	M
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
U	Q	J	X	A	H	Z	C	K	D	O	L

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

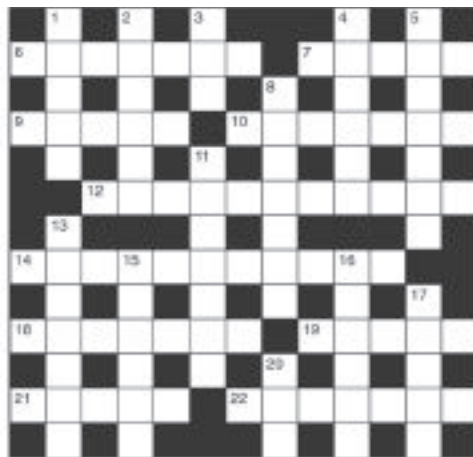
### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

- Club which may improve the flow of writing (7)
- Pressed a writer in the street (5)
- One taking part (5)
- Settled for having the team in red (7)
- Be likely to profit by a rise? (5,2,4)
- Not an offence, but a solicitor may be consulted about it (5,5)
- Invest capital, perhaps? (7)
- Look well on (5)
- Colour an Irishman goes about in (5)
- Declining music for a song (7)

#### Down

- You can put it on a horse that's a sure thing (5)
- Not quite a fifty majority (8)
- A small court of law (5)
- Bound over for three months (8)
- Succeed with a will in their resolve (7)
- Willingly did? (7)
- General form of increase (7)
- Some leavers reform (7)
- Spills a signal and gets into a row (8)
- Not even a strange thing (8)
- Charles I was an old woman? (5)
- Hardened bunch (5)



### Quick Clues:

#### Across

- Wretched (7)
- She-fox (5)
- First-rate (5)
- Advise (7)
- Remonstrate (11)
- Prodigal (11)
- Fluent (7)
- Flood (5)
- Ardent (5)
- Shortage (7)

#### Down

- Truck (5)
- Culmination (8)
- Globe (5)
- Indication (8)
- Keepsake (7)
- House (7)
- Summon (7)
- Blucade (7)
- Recompense (8)
- Seniorte (8)
- Garret (5)
- Not many (5)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

1	4	3	5	8	7	2	9	6
2	7	5	1	4	6	9	3	8
3	6	7	2	8	3	1	5	4
4	5	8	9	1	3	6	2	7
5	3	1	4	7	9	6	8	5
6	8	2	6	3	1	5	7	4
7	9	5	1	4	5	2	6	3
8	2	7	5	1	4	6	9	3
9	6	4	1	3	5	2	7	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Grounds; 7 Umbel; 9 Car; 10 Ordinance; 12 Chaucer; 13 Under his hat; 17 Willpower; 19 Plot; 21 Steer; 22 Malabar. Down: 1 Break; 2 Out; 3 Order; 4 Impartial; 5 Teacher; 6 Discus; 11 Orderlies; 13 School; 14 Ardeley; 15 Loose; 18 Flare; 20 Lay.  
QUICK - Across: 6 Heather; 7 Local; 9 Age; 10 Impudent; 12 Second-class; 15 Infantryman; 17 Continual; 19 Pay; 21 Route; 22 Around. Down: 1 Felony; 2 Ship; 3 Deem; 4 Gondolier; 5 Earned; 8 Friday; 11 Downside; 13 Culling; 14 Invoice; 16 Brine; 18 Also; 20 Rot.

## Quiz

- Which delicacy comes in American, Norway and spiny varieties?
- Which composer was Richard Wagner's father-in-law?
- How is the laughing jackass also known?
- What was Thomas Edison's middle name?
- Who was Lynne Frederick's first husband?
- Which Yorkshire town includes the remains of the castle where Richard II died?
- What type of edible plant is lavender?
- What is a skink?
- In which sport are the Swaythling and Corbillion Cups contested?
- Which dreamer was the creation of US humorist James Thurber?

### Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Bernard; 2 Foreign Secretary; 3 Pool; 4 David Lington; 5 Scrofula; 6 Charlie Chaplin; 7 Mermale; 8 Rosh Hashanah; 9 George VI; 10 Lerner and Loewe.

Niner: SIDETRACK

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

4389 gives grime,  
1726 gives more grime,  
5834 gives residue.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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# Job well done in latest Subaru XV

By Ian Donaldson

**Lots of car makers barely mention the oily bits when they proudly introduce the latest model, concentrating instead on the newly flowing lines or vibrant colour choices.**

Well, Subaru does all that too – but only after giving you a technical teach-in worthy of a first year degree course in automotive engineering.

Or nearly; with enough diagrams and charts to have you hoping to remember your tumble generation valve from your lateral bending stiffness.

No, me neither, until a dip into the press info file shows we're talking here about the engine and body, the first making the fuel mix better in the cylinders and the increased latter producing a stiffer body that's safer, quieter and better riding.

Both feature on the new Subaru XV, a thorough makeover of an SUV launched in 2012 and facelifted four years later but only taking a fifth of the modest 2,665 total Subarus sales in the UK last year.

The company wants to become the fastest growing car brand in Europe in 2018 and hopes the latest XV will do its bit to make that happen.

If buyers put their head before their heart that ought not to be an impossible target, if the heart rules there is an awful lot of handsome competition out there in the mid-size SUV market (think Mazda CX-3 and Toyota CH-R for starters).

Let's go head first into the new XV, where Subaru continues to make much of its long term mechanical features, with a flat four engine and all-wheel drive contributing a lower centre of gravity for better roadholding and slippery road stability respectively.



It looks a lot like the old car

The choice of 2.0 litre 154bhp or new 112bhp 1.6 litre petrol engine (the old diesel is ditched) comes with a CVT automatic transmission and permanent all-wheel drive, all wrapped in a body a little longer and wider than before and a lot stiffer too.

It looks a lot like the old car but with shapelier curves and a touch more off-road aggression around the plastic wheelarch extensions. Inside, there is a very obvious lift in quality of trim and much clearer instruments and graphics.

Keeping things simple, the XV comes with the two engine choices and just two trim levels, with prices starting at £24,995 for the 1.6 SE and adding £2,000 for SE Premium trim.

Choose the bigger 2.0 litre engine and the prices are £26,495 and £28,495, with the latter top spec likely to be the biggest seller by some way.

Choose the simple SE model and you won't feel shortchanged, with standard kit stretching



Off-road, and on standard tyres, the XV was properly impressive

from adaptive cruise control and pre-collision braking to hill descent control and an eight inch touchscreen and Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

The plusher SE Premium adds satellite navigation, leather seats, power adjustment for the driver and a sunroof.

There remains enough room in the rear seat for a couple of adults not to fall out on a long journey and the already decently sized boot gains a tiny bit more packing space.

The 2.0 litre engine does an adequate, if unspectacular job of propelling the newcomer at any sane road speed and with notably more refinement than before. It showed an acceptable 36mpg after an undemanding drive on British roads.

Pushed to its limit, the 2.0 will hit 121mph, reach 62mph in 10.4 seconds and recorded 40.9mpg and 155g/km in the official tests – all unexceptional figures.

The smaller 1.6 has to work harder, with

an indifferent 13.9 seconds to 62mph and 109mph top speed – for modest efficiency gains, showing 44.1mpg and 145g/km.

Off road, and on standard tyres, the XV was properly impressive, tackling a track more than ankle deep in freshly minted winter mud. As on the road, some subtle adjustments to the suspension meant a calmer than expected ride.

So, Subaru's depth of engineering prowess shines through again. Job done?

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14 (63)	RENAULT CLIO 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE M-NAV Flame Red	£8,975
13 (63)	VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.7 CDTi Exclusive Grey	£11,850
13 (13)	NISSAN JUKE 1.5DCi Acenta White	£7,650
13 (13)	NISSAN JUKE 1.5DCi Acenta PREMIUM White	DUE IN
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# Mazda3 range boosted by launch of Sport Black edition

The popular Mazda3 range has been boosted with the launch of the Mazda3 Sport Black special edition. Delivering an appealing blend of increased specification and sporty styling enhancements, the Sport Black is now in dealerships.

Offered exclusively in hatchback body style, the £21,595 Sport Black is marked out by enhanced styling and its unique 18-inch dark alloy wheels.

## Dynamic

Designed to complement the KODO: Soul of Motion design and dynamic proportions of the standard Mazda3, the Sport Black's jet black roof spoiler and door mirrors contrast perfectly with the free-of-charge Soul Red Metallic, Snowflake White Pearlescent and Eternal Blue Mica paint choices.

Limited to just 700 examples in the UK, the Mazda3 Sport Black delivers hot hatch inspired looks in an affordable and exclusive package that includes high-tech features.

Based on the 120ps SE-L Nav Mazda3, the Sport Black gets extra technology including a reversing camera, LED highlights with adaptive front lighting system and Smart keyless entry.

Inside the car, the Sport Black's tailor-made character is further enhanced with a heated steering



The car delivers an appealing blend of specification and sporty styling

wheel, BOSE® Surround-Sound System, cruise control and dual-zone climate control.

Fitted with Mazda's MZD-Connect system, 7" colour touchscreen display and Multimedia Commander, the Sport Black benefits from integrated navigation as standard.

"The Mazda3 is a core model in our line-up, one that continues to be popular with both private and fleet customers.

"The Sport Black special edition delivers even more value to our customers.

"And I'm sure its winning combination of extra equipment, distinctive styling enhancements and competitive price will make this a very popular addition to the already extensive Mazda3 range," commented Jeremy Thomson, managing director of Mazda Motors UK.

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### REDUCTIONS

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59 TOYOTA YARIS HATCHBACK 1.33 VVT-i TR 3dr [6] GREY	£3,495	£2,995
13 VAUXHALL CORSA HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDS 1.4 Energy 3dr [AC] BROWN	£4,995	£4,395
62 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ESTATE 1.6i Design 5dr 7 Seater RED	£7,495	£6,995
64 FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDCI 115 Zetec Navigator 5dr WHITE	£7,995	£7,695
64 KIA VENGA DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 CRDi EcoDynamics Level 3 5dr SILVER	£8,495	£7,995
65 MAZDA MAZDA 2 HATCHBACK 1.5 SE-L Nav 5dr RED	£9,695	£8,995
23 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF CABRIOLET 1.4 TSI GT 2dr WHITE	£9,695	£9,395
64 NISSAN QUASHQAI HATCHBACK 1.2 ACENTA SMART VISION DIG-T 5dr SUV BLACK	£11,995	£10,495
15 MAZDA MAZDA 3 HATCHBACK 2.0 Sport Nav 5dr RED	£11,995	£10,995
17 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Titanium X 5dr Powershift BLUE	£12,995	£11,995
17 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Titanium X 5dr Powershift BLUE	£12,995	£11,995
64 MAZDA MX-5 ROADSTER COUPE 1.8i SE 2dr WHITE	£12,695	£11,995
15 MAZDA MAZDA 3 FASTBACK 2.0 Sport Nav 4dr RED	£12,695	£11,995
16 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.6 EcoBoost ST-2 3dr BLUE	£12,995	£12,495
17 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 ST-Line 5dr BLACK	£13,995	£12,995
17 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 ST-Line 5dr WHITE	£13,995	£12,995
64 FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCI 163 Titanium 5dr Powershift AWD WHITE	£14,695	£13,995
64 NISSAN X-TRAIL DIESEL STATION WAGON 1.6 dCi N-Tec 5dr [7 Seat] GREEN	£15,995	£14,995
66 SKODA SUPERB DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDI CR SE L Executive 5dr GREY	£18,695	£17,995
17 KIA SPORTAGE ESTATE 1.6T GDI GT-Line 5dr [AWD] WHITE ARCTIC	£21,495	£19,995

### MAIN STOCK LIST

61 BMW Z4 ROADSTER SPECIAL EDITIONS 23i sDrive M Sport Highline Edition 2dr SILVER	£12,995
14 CITROEN BERLINGO MULTISPACE DIESEL ESTATE 1.6 HDi 90 VTR 5dr RED	£8,495
65 CITROEN C4 PICASSO EXCLUSIVE+ E-Hdi 5dr BLUE	£11,995
64 CITROEN GRAND C4 PICASSO DIESEL ESTATE 1.6 e-HDi 115 Airdream Exclusive 5dr 7 Seater GREY	£10,995
64 FORD B-MAX DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDCI Zetec 5dr BLUE	£8,695
65 FORD C-MAX 1.6 TDCI Titanium 5dr MPV WHITE	£11,695
66 FORD EDGE 2.0TDCI(210)POWER SHIFT TITANIUM(Lux Pack)LED Adaptive Lights/Sony Premium Nav/Sunroof RUBY RED	£26,489
17 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 ST-Line 5dr BLUE	£12,995
62 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Titanium 5dr BLUE	£7,495
14 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Titanium 5dr Blue	£8,695
16 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec 5dr SILVER	£10,495
66 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.25 82 Zetec 5dr WHITE	£9,995
65 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.5 TDCI Zetec 5dr BLUE	£9,495
14 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.6 Titanium 5dr Powershift RED	£8,695

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66 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 2.0T EcoBoost ST-3 5dr STEALTH GREY	£20,789
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64 FORD KUGA ESTATE 1.5 EcoBoost Titanium X 5dr 2WD BLACK	£15,695
64 FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCI 180 Titanium 5dr Powershift AWD BLACK	£15,695
63 FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCI 163 Titanium X 5dr Powershift AWD GREY	£13,495
64 FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCI Titanium 5dr 2WD BLACK	£12,995
15 FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCI Titanium 5dr AWD WHITE	£13,495
65 FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCI 180 Titanium 5dr GREY	£16,495
15 FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCI 180 Titanium 5dr 2WD BLACK	£13,695
64 FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCI 150 Zetec 5dr 2WD GREY	£12,495
64 FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCI 150 Zetec 5dr SILVER	£11,995
65 FORD MONDEO DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI EcoNetic Titanium 5dr BLUE	£15,995
16 FORD MONDEO DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI Titanium 5dr BLACK	£14,995
15 KIA CEEH HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.4 SR7 5dr RED	£9,995
14 KIA CEEH DIESEL SPORTSWAGON 1.6 CRDi Level 2 5dr SILVER	£9,995
67 KIA NIRO ESTATE 1.6 GDI PHEV 3 5dr DCT(Hybrid Petrol Electric) BLUE	£25,989
16 KIA PICANTO HATCHBACK 1.25 Level 3 EcoDynamics 5dr(Only 3k Miles) BLUE	£9,695
65 KIA SPORTAGE ESTATE SPECIAL EDITION 1.6 GDI ISG Axis Edition 5dr WHITE	£13,995
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15 MAZDA MX-5 ROADSTER COUPE SPECIAL EDS 1.8i Sport Venture Edition 2dr GREY	£14,995
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13 Reg SEAT TOLEDO DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDI Ecomotive SE 5dr	£6,995
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64 Reg SKODA YETI ESTATE 1.2 TSI S 5dr	£9,495
12 Reg VOLKSWAGEN GOLF CABRIOLET 1.4 TSI GT 2dr	£9,695
14 Reg MAZDA MAZDA3 FASTBACK 2.0 SE-L Nav 4dr	£9,695
16 Reg KIA PICANTO HATCHBACK 1.25 3 EcoDynamics 5dr	£9,695
16 Reg PEUGEOT 3008 ESTATE 1.2 Puretech Active 5dr	£9,995
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07 Reg TOYOTA YARIS HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDS 1.3 VVT-i TR 5dr MMT	£3,995
57 Reg HONDA CIVIC DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.2 i-CTDI EX 5dr	£4,295
60 Reg FIAT 500 HATCHBACK 1.2 Lounge 3dr Dualogic (Start Stop)	£4,995
13 Reg VAUXHALL CORSA HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDS 1.4 Energy 3dr [AC]	£4,995
10 Reg FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.4 TDCI Edge 5dr	£4,995
07 Reg MAZDA MX-5 CONVERTIBLE 2.0i 2dr	£5,495
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11 Reg AUDI A1 DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDI SE 3dr	£6,495
12 Reg VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ESTATE 1.8i [120] Exclusiv 5dr	£6,495
14 Reg VAUXHALL ASTRA DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 CDTI 16V SE [169] 5dr	£6,695
14 Reg NISSAN NOTE HATCHBACK 1.2 Acenta Premium 5dr [Comfort Pack]	£6,695
12 Reg HONDA CIVIC HATCHBACK 1.8 i-VTEC ES 5dr	£6,995
13 Reg CITROEN DS3 CABRIO 1.6 VTI Dstyle 2dr	£6,995
63 Reg SKODA FABIA HATCHBACK 1.2 TSI 105 Monte Carlo 5dr	£6,995
13 Reg SEAT TOLEDO DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDI Ecomotive SE 5dr	£6,995
15 Reg VAUXHALL CORSA HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDS 1.4 ecoFLEX Ecotric 3dr [AC]	£7,495
15 Reg HYUNDAI I20 HATCHBACK 1.2 SE 5dr	£7,495
8940 Reg NISSAN QASHQAI HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.5 dCi N-Tec 5dr	£7,495
13 Reg CITROEN C3 PICASSO ESTATE 1.6 VTI 16V Exclusive 5dr EGS	£7,695
64 Reg TOYOTA AURIS DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.4 D-4D Active 5dr	£7,995
64 Reg FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDCI 115 Zetec Navigator 5dr	£7,995
64 Reg NISSAN JUKE DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.5 dCi Acenta 5dr	£7,995
17 Reg FORD KA+ HATCHBACK 1.2 Studio 5dr	£7,995
65 Reg KIA RIO HATCHBACK 1.25 2 3dr	£7,995
62 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.25 82 Zetec 3dr	£8,295
66 Reg TOYOTA AURIS HATCHBACK 1.33 Dual VTI Icon 5dr	£8,495
14 Reg CITROEN BERLINGO MULTISPACE DIESEL ESTATE 1.6 HDi 90 V TR 5dr	£8,495
63 Reg KIA CEEH DIESEL SPORTSWAGON 1.6 CRDi 2 5dr Auto	£8,495
62 Reg FORD FOCUS ESTATE 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec 5dr	£8,495
14 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.0 125 EcoBoost Zetec 5dr	£8,495
62 Reg NISSAN JUKE HATCHBACK 1.6 Acenta 5dr [Premium Pack]	£8,495
64 Reg KIA VENGA DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 CRDi EcoDynamics 3 5dr	£8,495
64 Reg FORD B-MAX DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDCI Titanium X 5dr	£8,995
64 Reg FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.6 Zetec 5dr	£8,995
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66 Reg FORD KA+ HATCHBACK 1.2 85 Zetec 5dr	£8,995
65 Reg MITSUBISHI ASX ESTATE 1.8 5dr	£9,495
66 Reg RENAULT CLIO HATCHBACK 0.9 TCE 90 Dynamique S Nav 5dr	£9,495
64 Reg SKODA RAPID DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDI CR 115 S 5dr	£9,495
64 Reg SKODA YETI ESTATE 1.2 TSI S 5dr	£9,495
12 Reg VOLKSWAGEN GOLF CABRIOLET 1.4 TSI GT 2dr	£9,695
14 Reg MAZDA MAZDA3 FASTBACK 2.0 SE-L Nav 4dr	£9,695
16 Reg KIA PICANTO HATCHBACK 1.25 3 EcoDynamics 5dr	£9,695
16 Reg PEUGEOT 3008 ESTATE 1.2 Puretech Active 5dr	£9,995
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56 TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT 1.3, Silver, Beautiful Condition, MP3 Player	£2,875
08 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTi BREEZE, Red	£2,595
54 FORD FIESTA FLAME 5dr Silver	£2,495
57 VAUXHALL VECTRA, Diesel, Silver	£1,695
60 VW GOLF 1.4 5dr, Black, Alloys	SOLD
07 RENAULT CLIO 1.2 3DR, Silver	£1,695
57 VAUXHALL VECTRA SRI, diesel	£1,495

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04 VAUXHALL TIGRA SPORT, Silver	£1,295

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61 HONDA CRV ES i-DETEC 2.2 DIESEL, Bronze Metallic, 65,000 miles, Must Be Seen	£8,875
58 LAND ROVER FREELANDER HSE, Diesel	£7,995
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## CARS OF THE WEEK

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5 DOOR, CD PLAYER, AIR  
CON, POWER STEERING,  
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## A large crowd of people, many wearing blue and white clothing, gathered in a stadium. Banners in the background read "RAY WILKINS 1956 - 2018".

<b>Shrewsbury Invitational Domino League</b>	<b>Spar Mid Wales League Division 1</b>	<b>Ron's Gents Shrewsbury &amp; District Domino League</b>	<b>Vanarama National North (before Tuesday games)</b>	<b>Midland Football League Premier Division</b>
----------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------

Shrewsbury invitational

Domino League

	P	W	L	F	A	P
POW	28	13	7	136	88	40
FCC	28	15	13	132	92	40
Telegraph	28	16	6	137	87	38
Rack & Fountain	27	14	5	131	85	36
Heathgates	28	13	5	126	98	35
BVT	28	11	5	124	100	34
Telepost	28	12	9	115	109	31
PO & Pkessant	28	11	9	112	112	37
HSC	28	8	11	110	117	27
Masonic	27	7	10	110	99	27
Cross Foxes	28	7	12	90	100	24
Anchor	27	8	15	91	125	20
Postal	28	8	16	87	139	17
Brooklands	28	3	16	10	139	16
Albion	27	3	21	3	143	9

Wem & District Dominoes League

	P	W	L	F	A	Diff	P
Stanton Arms...	20	13	5	111	69	42	1
Preses Club	20	13	7	98	82	16	26
Fox Inn	20	12	8	101	79	22	24
Castle Hotel	20	12	8	96	84	12	24
Dickin Arms	20	11	9	88	92	- 4	22
Red Castle	20	10	10	91	89	2	20
Tilstock BTC	20	10	10	100	100	- 20	20
Wem CC	20	10	10	98	100	- 20	20
Wem Utd Svcs	20	8	12	93	97	- 14	16
Wem S&S	20	8	12	100	100	- 16	16
Hole in Wall	20	2	18	710	100	- 4	4

Wem & District Darts League

	P	W	L	F	A	Diff	P
Red Castle	20	18	2	136	44	92	36
Castle Hotel	20	17	3	118	62	56	34
Hole in the Wall	20	16	4	129	51	78	32
Stanton Arms...	20	12	8	101	79	22	28
Fox Inn	20	12	8	113	67	46	24
Dickin Arms	20	12	8	99	81	18	24
Preses Club	20	12	8	1290	90	0	16
Wem S&S	20	7	13	72	108	- 36	14
Wem CC	20	4	16	56	124	- 68	6
Wem Utd Svcs	20	3	17	52	128	- 76	6
Tilstock BTC	20	0	20	1367	-154	0	4

Horsehay & Dawley Licensees

Domino League

	P	W	L	F	A	P
White Horse A	16	12	3	85	43	85
Three Crowns	16	10	6	71	57	71
Bulleys Head CC	16	9	7	70	58	70
Maddy Head	16	8	6	67	61	67
Elizabethan	16	8	6	62	66	62
Ring of Bells	16	8	7	61	67	61
Travellers Joy	16	7	9	68	60	60
White Horse B	16	7	9	54	54	54
Queens Head	16	5	11	46	42	46

Welsh Premier League

	P	W	L	F	A	P
The New Saints	29	21	4	73	27	67
Connahs Quay	29	16	6	47	24	54
Bangor City	29	17	3	46	30	54
Bala Town FC	29	15	10	32	38	49
Cardiff Celtic	29	16	12	38	32	39
Cefn Druids	29	10	11	33	39	39
Berry Town	28	14	13	31	28	45
Newcastle	29	13	15	45	49	36
Llandudno FC	29	8	12	35	38	38
Aberystwyth	29	8	16	40	52	30
Cardarnarthen	29	7	14	31	58	25
Prestatyn Town	28	4	5	19	27	63

Huws Rayd Alliance

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Cardarnarthen	25	17	7	89	29	58
Aberus B'ton	25	16	3	8	29	58
Rhyl	25	13	8	62	43	47
Guthfield	25	13	7	57	47	34
Denbigh Town	22	14	2	56	39	44
Holywell Town	21	12	6	61	29	42
Portmadog	22	12	3	62	40	39
Grestford Athletic	24	11	8	50	47	35
Ruthin Town	24	9	11	46	31	43
Cefn Druids	24	10	11	45	34	37
Holyhead Twn	26	8	13	15	54	21
Penrynhycoch	23	6	8	35	43	26
Caernarvon	21	3	15	29	57	12
FC Queens Park	23	3	19	20	91	6
Llandudno Jun.	23	0	4	19	23	94

Spar Mid Wales League

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Welshpool	26	16	6	4	86	35	54
Llanrhaeadr	21	17	1	3	75	25	23
Llanidloes Twn	23	14	4	4	48	32	46
Bow Street	20	12	3	5	50	29	39
Aberastury	23	11	5	7	50	40	38
Llanfair United	22	12	2	8	49	43	38
Radnor Valley	23	11	4	8	57	47	47
Carno	22	10	6	6	61	35	36
Kington Town	22	12	4	4	41	37	38
Gleadow	20	8	4	8	46	55	21
Twyn Brynwrctn	21	8	2	11	49	61	26
Llandrindod Wcs	27	7	0	15	31	45	21
Churchstoke	20	5	5	10	33	47	20
Kerry	19	5	2	12	33	67	17
Maclnchlynell	23	2	10	23	93	7	7
Borth Utd	22	2	1	19	77	89	7

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Llansantffraid	19	9	2	63	40	47	47
Builth Wells	15	14	0	54	6	63	63
Haydon North	18	11	3	4	47	26	36
Brace St Marys	19	11	3	45	49	29	36
Aberystwyth U	23	10	3	57	43	33	33
Dyffryn Banw	18	8	2	8	32	32	26
Dolgellau	18	8	2	8	30	35	26
Abermule	16	8	1	7	42	40	25
Newbridge-on-W	22	6	3	13	46	55	21
Prestige	18	7	1	6	38	22	28
Montgomery	17	4	5	8	32	46	14
Talgarth Town	18	3	1	24	10	58	10
Penybont Utd	17	1	0	16	15	67	3

Shropshire Premier League

Premier

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Oakenagates Ath	17	14	1	2	71	24	43
Preses FC	17	10	6	43	44	33	33
Shrewsbury Jrs.	14	10	4	49	35	30	28
Cies Hill United	14	9	1	63	22	28	28
Newport Town	15	6	2	7	44	38	20
Gobowen Cc	14	6	2	6	36	42	20
Madley Sprts	13	6	1	6	23	20	20
Oakenagates RV	16	6	10	46	64	18	18
Craven Arms	17	3	1	13	22	65	10
Shifnal Utd 97	17	2	0	15	19	62	6

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
St Martins Jrs	16	12	2	76	16	38	38
Cies Hill United	14	10	4	49	35	30	28
Stoke Heath	16	8	3	76	48	27	27
Madley SR	14	7	2	39	35	23	23
Claverley FC	13	7	0	6	31	47	21
W Wood Jrs	13	5	3	5	39	27	18
Albrighton FC	16	4	3	9	37	43	15
Brown Cies FC	13	5	5	26	31	14	14
Denso FC	16	0	16	19	125	0	0

J T Hughes Montgomeryshire

Amateur Football League

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bishops Castle	19	16	1	59	15	35	35
Guthfield SR	14	10	3	1	46	21	33
Four Crosses	13	9	2	2	44	18	29
Waterloo Rovers	15	6	4	5	36	23	23
Llanfair Utd Rs	12	5	2	5	28	31	17
Trewern	11	5	2	4	27	31	17
Maesyrhandir	16	4	4	8	32	53	16
Llanfrynlyn	16	4	9	29	41	33	13
Llanymynech	13	3	3	25	50	12	12
Meliod	13	1	9	16	20	10	10
Caersws Rs	11	2	1	14	44	7	7

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Llangedwyn	19	16	1	2	74	22	49
Forden United	13	13	0	7	11	39	39
Trefonen	13	8	2	3	30	17	26
Llanrhaeadr RS	12	7	1	4	51	40	21
Kerry Reserves	15	6	3	6	36	49	21
Abermule RS	13	5	1	6	41	31	31
W'pool Town FC	16	5	3	8	34	27	18
Newtown Wdrs	15	4	4	7	27	33	16
Carno Reserves	14	5	0	9	34	15	15
Churchstoke R	16	3	4	9	34	61	13
Llanfechain	15	3	2	10	23	45	11
Llanfrynlyn Twn R	13	0	1	12	10	71	0

al against Lincoln.  
winners

### Midland Football League

#### Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bromsgrove Sp.	36	26	5	5	90	41	83
Walsall Town	36	23	6	7	88	44	76
Forester City	35	21	9	8	80	35	72
Port Vale	32	22	6	6	61	35	71
Leeds United	33	18	9	8	70	44	63
Leeds United	32	14	10	10	51	49	49
Leeds United	32	14	10	10	51	49	49
Leeds United	32	14	10	10	51	49	49
Leeds United	32	14	10	10	51	49	49
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Leeds United</							



# Error from Power sees race treble slip away

BEN POWER, the Guilsfield racer, was left to rue a glaring error after missing out on a hat-trick of race wins in the UK National Legends Car Championship at the Brands Hatch circuit in Kent.

Celebrating his 28th birthday, Power came away with two victories, but was left to reflect that it could have been three had he not slowed down with a lap to go, thinking the race was over.

He was in second place in the opening heat as he crossed the line after the ninth lap, but mistakenly slowed up, which allowed others to pass, and he ended up finishing 10th.

“That was stupid – I just miscounted,” he explained. “It all started really well, but then I made an absolute idiot, April Fool’s move, and finished a lap early when I was in second! I fought back with two wins after that, though, which were great.”

The next day’s races were plagued by rain and delays, but started well for Power, who took second place in heat one after a huge wheel-to-wheel battle with reigning champion John Mickel and Steve Whitelegg.

He then placed fifth in heat two, and was second in the final, two seconds behind race winner Will Gibson, to finish as the day’s overall winner on points.

“There are so many quick guys coming through now,” he said. “The series is more open than ever, so it’s great to be at the sharp end, and enjoying some competitive battles.”

The points championship now stands as follows: 1 Miles Rudman, 1480pts; 2 Ben Power, 1410pts; 3 John Mickel, 1405pts; 4 Steve Whitelegg, 1345pts; 5 Jack Parker, 1315pts; 6 Will Gibson, 1225pts.

Guttercrest Racing is backed by the family-owned aluminium guttering company Guttercrest, based in Oswestry.

# Line-up set for finals day at Llanymynech

SOME of the county’s leading lights have taken to Shropshire’s newest open competition like ducks to water – three of them quite literally.

Hanwood duo Wayne Phillips and Ash Wellings and Chris Worthington (Sir John Bayley) qualified for Sunday’s finals of the £960 Llanymynech Open in the toughest of conditions.

Heavy rain meant standing water had to be brushed off the border village club’s green on Saturday morning, but that did not stop Wellings beating Welshmen Andy Delooye 21-12 and Martin Jones 21-15 while Phillips beat Gareth Davies and Megis Phillips of Ceiriog Valley both to 16.

Worthington, who bowls for Staffordshire in the County Championship, and homester Ben Parkes grabbed the other tickets to the last 16 and, as conditions eased, the afternoon success stories were 17-year-old organiser Kieran Jones, fellow Llanymynech bowler Mark Kirkham, Chris Kearns of Merseyside and Rich Lawson.

Bowring ace Lawson, hat-trick hero in both the County Handicap and North Shropshire Parks winter series, qualified by beating Derek Wright (Wem USC) 21-20 from 15-8 down in the game of the day.

Sunday morning’s qualifiers were Ifton pair Nick Jones and Ade Humphries, homester James Candlin and North Shropshire comps supreme Jamie Brookes.

Newport’s county senior team chief Mick Jones rallied from 20-10 down to pip Dickie Jones to a finals day place and was followed by Colin Beaman (Hanwood), Peter Bound (Wem USC) and Ifton’s Dave Bond in qualifying in the hunt for a £330 first prize.

# Biggest win of season for Oswestry

OSWESTRY made light work of depleted Vagabonds at Granville Park to hand out a 68-0 beating and record their biggest win of the season in the South Lanes and Cheshire Two.

The struggling Isle of Man visitors are firmly rooted to the foot of the table, and were brushed aside with relative ease as the Eagles consolidated their top-10 position in the league.

Vagabonds arrived with only 10 players having been stricken with a bout of food poisoning. Under league rules, Oswestry were allowed to field 11 players, with the game shortened to 20 minutes each half and only five man scrums instead of eight.

Oswestry were soon in the ascendancy and took the lead when Luca Owen-Youens, back from injury,

showed his pace to speed over with Finton Grogan converting for a 7-0 lead.

Tom Henry Jones then grabbed a second score after using his strength and speed to rip the ball off a player, Grogan again adding the extras.

Owen-Youens broke from halfway before using his pace and strength to grab his second try under the posts, Grogan converting.

Grogan was the next to cross the whitewash when kicking through to score a fine individual effort which he also converted.

The scoring continued when, after a strong surge by Owen-Youens, captain Andrew Smith fed Jordan Tsang who crossed for his first try for the season, again converted by Grogan. Scott Smith then got in

on the act when showing his pace to race through from half way, Grogan continuing his 100 per cent record with the boot for a 42-0 half-time advantage.

After the break, Owen Youens completed his hat-trick of tries, Grogan converting, before again adding the extras when Owen-Youens crossed for a fourth touchdown.

Vagabonds battled but got little joy from their hosts who held firm before Henry Jones finished a good manoeuvre to score his second try of the afternoon. This time Grogan failed with his conversion.

The scoring was completed when Liam Williams ran through to touch down for a 10th try, and Grogan finished a fine afternoon with the boot to kick the conversion for a 23-point haul.

# Pool players pitch in to get the game on

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

IT was all hands to the deck as Welshpool’s rugby players beat both the rain and visitors Abergele to boost their fortunes in the Welsh League division two (north).

The deluge that decimated the sporting scene throughout the region had threatened to halt Pool’s hopes of staging their clash with lowly Abergele at Maesydre.

But players and officials all mucked in to clear water off the rain-soaked surface. And their stirring endeavours proved worthwhile as the hosts sealed a 22-7 bonus point success against an Abergele side lying one position below them.

Welshpool had toiled early on in the rain-soaked conditions, struggling to find a way through as the visitors led 7-0 at the break courtesy of a converted touchdown.

But they turned it around after the interval to run in four tries, the last in the dying moments to clinch a bonus point.

Starting to move the ball more more effectively to avoid the contact area, the hosts never looked back once they got their first try through winger Rhys Williams midway through the second period.

Replacement flanker Tom Worthy and hooker Ally Evans also went over before wing Matt Roberts crossed for the fourth try in the closing moments to wrap up the victory. Tom Williams chipped in with a conversion.

Pool, who remain third bottom, have no game on Saturday, before making the return fixture to Abergele the following week in their penultimate league game.

COBRA’S hopes of pulling off a quickfire double against runaway leaders Denbigh were halted by the weather as their encounter in the Welsh League division two (north) succumbed to a waterlogged pitch.

Having produced a superb display to become the first side to defeat the pacesetters when prevailing 13-0 the week before, the Meifod men were looking for more of the same.

But heavy rain overnight and throughout the morning left the club with little choice but to call the game off.

Next up for the Llanfair Caereinion side is a home tussle with Abergele on Saturday as they look to finish their campaign on a strong note.

Elsewhere, full-back Sam Jones marked his return with a hat-trick of tries as Llanidloes stayed



Welshpool players and officials muck in to clear water off the Maesydre pitch before kick off

on course for a top-five finish in the Welsh League division two (north) with a 40-7 home beating of Bangor.

The RGC player made light of the heavy conditions on his comeback from injury, scoring the first two tries while also making the break for winger James Davies to go over for a 19-0 interval lead, with Adam Price supplying a couple of conversions.

Bangor, who proved a handful up front, reduced the arrears with a converted try after the break after

Llani had been slow to get back into their stride early in the second period.

But the hosts took charge in the last 10 minutes, running in three tries with centre Dan Short crossing to secure a bonus point, with Price again converting.

Jones then completed his hat-trick before a sixth touchdown was scored by replacement Dafydd Dugan, both converted by Price.

Llani make the return trip to Bangor on Saturday.

# Sharp: Clarke can be the new Joe Root

OSWESTRY batsman Joe Clarke could be the new Joe Root, according to the England captain’s one-time batting mentor Kevin Sharp.

A former player and coach with Yorkshire, Sharp worked with Root as a developing player.

Now head coach of Worcestershire, he believes 21-year-old Clarke shares many of the same attributes as the England captain and feels he would do well if picked for the Test team this summer.

Clarke, who could play some games for home town club Oswestry this season, has impressed since arriving at Worcestershire.

“Yes, he could be the new Joe Root,” Sharp told ESPNcricinfo. “He reminds me a lot of Joe Root’s credentials.”

“I met Joe Root as a 12-year-old and he had something special straight away. I knew that from day one. The way he went about his tasks, the way he

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

talked about the game and the way he went about planning, he was always planning for the next level.

“Joe Clarke’s the same. He’s a fine young player. He wants to play all types of cricket for England. He’s very self-driven.”

“A few years ago I told Joe Root to look out for a guy called Joe Clarke. He said ‘All right. OK then.’ Clarke is clearly a huge fan of Root. During the days when the England and England Lions squads trained together in Australia during the Ashes tour, Clarke could be seen sitting in the closest net to Root as he batted and watching his every move intently.

And, while Clarke did not score especially heavily on the Lions tour in the Caribbean, he redeemed

himself with scores of 46, 71 and 112 in the North v South games.

He had previously become the first teenage Lions player since Root.

With England struggling to find much consistency in their middle-order batting since Ian Bell, Jonathan Trott and Kevin Pietersen left the team, Clarke could even himself in the Test team within weeks.

He is clearly highly thought of by the likes of Andy Flower and, if he starts the county season well, he will have given himself an excellent opportunity to push for a middle-order spot.

“It wouldn’t surprise me if he was picked,” Sharp said. “He would do well. He believes in himself, he’s hungry and he concentrates well. It absolutely wouldn’t be a problem if he got picked. He wouldn’t let himself or anybody down.”

# Heavy loss for Ifton in first game of campaign

IFTON suffered a 13-1 mauling at Burway in a disappointing opening night in the Salop Leisure Shropshire Premier Bowls League.

After finishing a lowly second bottom last term, the St Martins side are hoping for better fortunes this time around – but launched the new campaign with an emphatic 248-137 defeat.

Dicky Jones was the lone winner in south Shropshire when prevailing 21-17 to Kev Dovey, while Leighton Roberts was the pick of the losers when taking 17 shots.

There were five single figure winners for Burway, with Len Lewis (21-5) pulling off the best result for the home side.

Ifton will look to quickly put that result behind them when they tackle Chester Road in their first home outing of the season on Friday night.

Elsewhere, champions Castlefields launched the defence of their title with a narrow 9-5 (209-201) reverse away to Hanwood, while runners-up Sir John Bayley were edged out 8-6 (217-214) at Bowring.

Chester Road - who travel to Ifton on Friday night - chalked up a 9-5 home success against Hammer, taking the aggregate by just two shots (211-209).

The Oswestry and District Bowling League got under way this week with Church A opening their campaign with a home fixture against Chirk A.

Church, who finished runners-up in the second division last term, return to the first division along with Cynwyd A.

Ceiriog Valley A started the defence of the first division title with a visit to Corwen A, while Llanymynech A - who enjoyed a creditable return to the top flight let term - are away to Ruabon A.

Other first division fixtures saw Whittington A welcome Flexsys A, who narrowly escaped relegation, while Johnstown A entertain Llangollen A.

The second division got underway on the same night with Weston Rhyn A, who finished fourth last term, home to Ellesmere A, while Ye Olde Crofte A travel to George.

Elsewhere, Church B headed to Llangynog A and Llanrhaeadr A, who narrowly missed out on promotion, were home to Plas Kynaston A.

# Rangers are pushing for top-six spot

ELESMERE RANGERS remain on course to achieve their aim of a top-six finish in the West Midlands League premier division.

The seventh-placed Beech Grove outfit warmed up for home games against two sides above them in the next few days by easing to a 6-0 win at lowly Dudley Sports last weekend.

With joint managers Jamie Haynes and Kevin Sandwith both unavailable, youth team boss Jamie Martindale stepped up to lead the side as they put the division’s second-bottom club to the sword.

Harry Morris and Karl Bailey both struck twice while Anwar Ologbon and Jack Briscoe also weighed in with goals.

“Jamie ran the team and it was a good win, an important one after three defeats in a row, two in the league and one in the cup,” said Haynes.

“We want to get sixth spot and it’s so tight.

“It could well even come down to goal difference, so it was great to get six goals last weekend.”

Rangers host fourth-placed Tivdale on Thursday before another home game, this time against fifth-placed Bewdley Town, on Saturday.

Haynes added: “They’re all winnable games.”



## St Martins remain in the race for promotion

ST MARTINS stayed on track for promotion from the West Midlands League division one after hitting back to defeat Bustleholme 3-2 at Park Hall.

After taking an early lead through Brendon Price, they fell behind 2-1 at the break, before second-half strikes from Jamie Hands and Callum Graybrook turned the game around.

The Saints remain fourth in the table, four points adrift of second place, but with a game in hand as they chase a place in the North West Counties League next season.

The games now come thick and fast for Dan Stevens' side who take on Allscott in the semi-final of the Commander Ethelston Cup at Whitchurch on Thursday night.

The following Tuesday (Apr 17), they host Willenhall Town in the league before welcoming Wem Town on Saturday, April 24.

After being frustrated by the weather in recent weeks, St Martins were soon on the attack against Bustleholme, with Callum Bennett firing an early effort over after driving into the box from wide.

And they were ahead on five minutes when Price lashed the ball home from 14 yards after Dave Easthope had headed down.

Price should have added his second on 13 minutes but could only steer over from close range after Elliott Howes had put the ball across the face of goal.

At the other end, Saints keep George Austin pulled off a terrific save to push the ball over the bar from a headed effort on 19 minutes, but was beaten from close range from the resulting corner as Bustleholme earned parity.

The West Bromwich visitors were then ahead on 32 minutes when Austin was caught off his line by a 40-yard strike.

St Martins should have been level three minutes before half time, but Dave Hartshorn saw his penalty well saved.

The hosts stormed forward after the break and, after Hartshorn was foiled by a terrific save, they were level on 66 minutes as Shawn Melusi pulled back for Jamie Hands to smash the ball home.

A dangerous cross from Howes just eluded Hartshorn as the Saints pressed for a winner, and they got their reward 11 minutes from time as man-of-the-match Melusi played in Callum Graybrook to find the bottom corner.

Price then missed a chance to wrap up the game with a fourth, but the hosts had done enough.

# Perfect dozen as ladies go goal crazy

IT rained goals as The New Saints Ladies stormed to a 12-0 victory at struggling Leicester City Ladies in the FA Women's Premier League Midlands One.

Looking for their first league win in four games, TNS were in scintillating form as they racked up their highest league score at this level to maintain their push for runners-up spot.

Nine different players got on the scoresheet with Sarah Jackson getting the first when sliding the ball past the on-rushing goalkeeper.

Katy Huntbach doubled the lead with a cross-shot and moments later Jackson bagged her second after more good work on the right from Laura Morris.

It was all TNS with the Leicester goalkeeper called

into action on several occasions, while a linesman's offside flag denied Jackson a first-half hat-trick.

A fourth goal duly arrived on the stroke of half-time as Kim Bebbington's cross was turned into her own net by a defender.

The second half continued in a similar vein with Morris crossing for Jackson who made sure of her hat-trick.

The chances kept coming with Phoebe Davies making it 6-0 direct from a free-kick before keeper Stacey Garnham added a penalty.

Bebbington then chipped the keeper for her second of the game before Morris bagged a deserved goal of her own to make it 9-0. Goal of the day went to

Lia Lewis who finished a fine one-touch move with a curling strike before stand-in captain Hannah Yates netted her first goal of the season with a penalty.

The scoring was completed five minutes from time when Sara Bengtsson hit an unstoppable drive.

"People will notice the scoreline, but behind that was a wonderful display that we have been threatening all season," said manager Andy Williams, whose side visit Radcliffe Olympic on Sunday.

TNS under-19s, Welsh Premier Development League (north) champions, were presented with their trophy after their last game of the season against Llandudno at Park Hall. The game finished 2-2.

# Duo sign new deals to remain at Saints

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

**TWO key players have handed The New Saints an end-of-season boost by pledging their immediate futures to the newly-crowned Welsh Premier League champions.**

Stalwart midfielder Aeron Edwards and striker Dean Ebbe have both penned deals to extend their contracts with the Park Hall club.

Signed on a short-term basis in the January transfer window, forward Ebbe quickly made an impact with five goals in three different competitions.

Edwards, a long-standing regular in the side, recently featured for Wales in the C international against England at Barry Town's Jenner Park.

Boss Scott Ruscoe was delighted to keep the duo at Park Hall as he shapes his squad ahead of this summer's Champions League.

"Aaron's been with us for several years now and I played with him as a player. He seems to be getting better with age and he trains well," he said.

"He's put in some great performances this season. His goal return is good and he continues to consistently perform for us."

Ruscoe has seen enough to offer Dublin-born striker Ebbe a new contract after making an early favourable impression.

"He's scored goals and he's put in good performances," he said. "He mixes well with the rest of the players, is a likeable lad, works hard and wants to do well."

Ruscoe is planning to bolster his squad, with some possible new signings training with the club in the next few weeks, while they will also be involved in a behind closed doors friendly.

"We've got four or five that we're looking at and hopefully we can get some of those over the line ready for June 4 when we return to pre-season training," he added.

Meanwhile, TNS top scorer Greg Draper - who has netted 19 league goals this season - landed the Welsh Premier's goal of the month accolade for March for his headed goal in the 5-1 victory over Cefn Druids.

Meanwhile, Newtown's hopes of reaching the JD Welsh Cup final were ended after slipping to a 2-1 defeat to Aberystwyth Town at Bala Town's Maes Tegid.

Declan Walker scored twice for the Seaside, the first on 22 minutes when heading in John Owen's right wing cross.

He doubled the advantage eight minutes after the break when firing home a penalty after Ryan Wade had been brought down in the box by David Jones.

Newtown gave themselves hope when Nick Rushton pulled one back from the penalty spot on 76 minutes after Ashley Young was penalised for a hand ball, but Aber held firm.

Aberystwyth will meet Connah's Quay Nomads who swept aside Bangor City 6-1 at Rhyll's Belle Vue to reach the final of the Welsh Cup for the first time in 20 years.

The game was over inside 38 minutes with Andy Owens heading the first before Ryan Wignall got through the City defence to beat keeper Matthew Hall in a one-on-one.

Michael Bakare then slid the ball home from a narrow angle from a flick-on to put the Nomads in complete control.

On 56 minutes, Owens added another with a 15-yarder and completed his hat-trick shortly afterwards.

City did reduce the arrears from a George Harry penalty after Kai Edwards had handled, but Nomads replied straight away when Nathan Woolfe made it six.

## Second spot for young S&H side



Standing, from left: Tom Matthews (captain), Cameron Probert, Owen Reynolds and Dani Hoof. Kneeling: Euan Muttitt-Jones, Daniel Haycocks, Rory McDonald O'Brien, Morgan Radziejowski

YOUNG Shropshire & Herefordshire golfers have been praised for their second-place finish in the Four Counties tournament.

S&H lost their first match to eventual winner Lancashire but responded by beating Cheshire and hosts Nottinghamshire.

It means the wait for a first title since 2005 goes on, but chairman of junior golf Charles Sievwright was happy.

"I must praise all the team who battled through, particularly very

difficult wet weather conditions on the first day," he said.

"It was a satisfying performance but we wait for that elusive win since we last triumphed with the likes of Ashley Chesters and Oliver Farr in the team."

Oswestry's Tom Matthews, skipping the side, went into the week having won all six of his matches in the tournament in the previous two years.

He won his first game before coming back from four down

with four to play to halve his second match. But, in his final Four Counties, the unbeaten record went with defeat against Nottinghamshire.

Dani Hoof and Cameron Probert, both playing their last Four Counties, had two wins. Debutants Rory McDonald O'Brien and Euan Muttitt-Jones enjoyed a win apiece.

Next year's event will be hosted by Lancashire at Lancaster Golf Club.

## GUILDSFIELD out of cup as Hotspur strike late

GUILDSFIELD made a disappointing exit in the Huws Gray Cup after being downed 1-0 at 10-man Holyhead Hotspur in their delayed first-round tie.

A penalty from Tomos Clarke seven minutes from time following a foul on John Livermore settled the issue, with Hotspur now visiting Porthmadog in the quarter-finals.

The tie had been postponed four times due to a combination of wind, rain and snow, but finally went ahead at the fifth time of asking.

Holyhead, whose form has faded of late, looked to be up against it after having Dean Garmey sent off after just 10 minutes.

But the Guils - the 2011 winners of the trophy - failed to capitalise on their one-man advantage as the Holyhead side secured their passage to the last eight courtesy of Clarke's spot-kick.

The visitors should have grasped the game by the scruff of the neck after the early dismissal, but struggled to get in their stride in the first half despite Chris Cathrall's powerful strike rattling the cross-bar.

Guilsfield showed more intent after the interval, but could not break down the resolute Holyhead rearguard which defended in depth for most of the second half.

Despite dominating possession, the visitors were stung when Holyhead were awarded a penalty seven minutes from time which Clark duly converted.

With their cup hopes having now evaporated, the villagers will want to finish their Cymru Alliance campaign on a high in their remaining three games.

Five points off second with games in hand, they still have realistic hope of finishing in runners-up spot - which would be a terrific achievement for Nathan Leonard's side.

There was yet more weather misery for struggling Caerswys whose home clash with Holywell Town was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

## Barton leads the pack in scoring chart

SEASONED striker Danny Barton continues to show the way at the top of the goalscoring charts in the Montgomeryshire Football League.

With teams bracing themselves for a hectic end of season, hot-shot Barton remains the leading marksman in the first division after netting 17 goals for title-chasing Guilsfield reserves.

The former first-team manager is one ahead of Bishop's Castle forward Gaz Bromley, who has 16, while Ashley Davies (Llanfair United reserves) has bagged 15 this term.

Charlie Proctor (Waterloo Rovers) has netted 14, of which six were for Trewern, while Rovers team-mate Andrew Gwilt has 12.

Luke Francis (Guilsfield reserves) and George Mellor (Bishop's Castle) are both on 11, and Ben Simms, of Four Crosses, is also on double figures with 10.

Josh Gethin, of title favourites Forden United, is still top of the pile in division two with 21 goals, but Huw France, who has scored 20 for Llanrhaeadr reserves, is hard on his heels.

Sukru Ozdemir of Abermule Reserves has 19, ahead of Josh Evans (Llangedwyn) 18, and Micheal Henderson Smith (Forden) who has 16.

Others in double figures are Dean Jones (Llangedwyn) 12, Ryan Broadbeck (Llanrhaeadr reserves) and Huw Roberts Kerry Reserves, who both have 10 to their names.

\*Just one Montgomeryshire League game survived on another weather-disrupted weekend with Llanrhaeadr reserves drawing 2-2 at Newtown reserves in division two

## Trip to seaside ruined by big postponement

FC OSWESTRY TOWN were again left kicking their heels as their scheduled trip to the seaside to take on AFC Blackpool turned into a damp squib.

Since mid-December, Town have now suffered no fewer than 11 postponements after their latest fixture in the Hallmark North West Counties League division one was washed out following heavy rain on the Fylde Coast. It was called off 15 minutes before the players were due to leave.

They remain 15th in the table, and still with 10 league games left to play - starting with Tuesday night's tough home encounter with Prestwich Heys as they chase a first win since prevailing 1-0 against Chaderton back on January 6.

On Saturday, the Oswestry side are again at home to Cumbrians Holker Old Boys, who are another side looking to push into the promotion play-offs.

Town's North Shropshire derby at promotion-chasing Whitchurch Alport will now take place on Bank Holiday Monday, May 7.

## Champions given the go-ahead for Europe

THE NEW SAINTS, who will again be flying their flag in the UEFA Champions League this July, have been successful in their FAW domestic licence application.

The newly-crowned champions were one of nine Welsh Premier clubs to retain the accreditation, which enables them to participate in the Welsh Premier League.

However, two of the club's chasing Europa League places, Bangor City and Connah's Quay Nomads,

were refused the FAW licence. They have 10 days in which to submit an appeal.

A total of 14 clubs from the top two tiers were successful in their licence application after being assessed on certain criteria including youth and coaching, infrastructure, personnel and administration and codes of practice.

The club licensing system aims to assist the continual improvement and development of football

clubs at the top level within Wales.

The nine Welsh Premier clubs to gain the accreditation are Aberystwyth Town, Bala Town, Barry Town United, Cardiff Metropolitan University, Carmarthen Town, Cefn Druids, Llandudno, Newtown and The New Saints.

Five tier two clubs have also been successful - Airbus UK Broughton, Caernarfon Town, Flint Town United, Haverfordwest County and Rhyl.



# Sport

Rugby union  
Wins for Welshpool  
and Oswestry – P38

Golf  
Tom skippers  
county side – P39



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## Morda Road under water after deluge

THE start of the cricket season could be delayed as Oswestry's cricketers mop up following the recent deluge which left their Morda Road ground under water.

The Birmingham League was due to get under way on Saturday, April 21 – but clubs were this week voting on whether to put the start back a week due to the unseasonal weather.

If the move wins approval, it would mean that Oswestry's first game at home to Shropshire rivals Bridgnorth in division one would now be played on August Bank Holiday Monday, while their season would officially start away to Himley on April 28.

Should their campaign get under way later, then the planned friendly against Whitchurch on Saturday will be played the following week.

"The feeling we get is that clubs are keen to put the season back a week as they have been unable to do any work on their grounds," said Oswestry chairman Chris Wiseman.

"It would make common sense as everyone's in the same boat after the wet weather we've had. Our ground is like a lake, and there's no way we can get a roller on it. We can't even get in the nets. "It's all very frustrating as the lads just want to get out in the middle."

Clubs were voting on whether to delay the season at a meeting on Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, Oswestry know they cannot afford to drop out of the Birmingham League's first division next season if they hope to safeguard their place in the new-look league the following year.

From the start of the 2019 season, the league will comprise two divisions (Premier One and Premier Two) with 12 clubs in each.

The other 24 clubs will transfer to their respective county leagues, as will all second teams.

## FC Oswestry facing backlog of fixtures

FIXTURES are piling up for FC Oswestry Town after their latest call-off in the Hallmark North West Counties League division one.

Town's trip to AFC Blackpool succumbed to a waterlogged pitch 15 minutes before they were due to leave – their 11th postponement since December.

"It's become a bit of a nightmare, and we've now got 10 games left to play in a month, but a lot of teams are worse off than us," said manager Ryan Butcher.

"It's very frustrating when you prepare for a game only for it to be called off, but there's nothing you can do about it."

Town have now got two tough home games this week against teams vying for the play offs – Prestwich Heys on Tuesday night and Holker Old Boys on Saturday (3pm).

ST Martins tackle Allscott in the semi-final of the Commander Ethelston Cup at Whitchurch on Thursday night.

## Hulme gets late Games call for Wales

By John Bridgwater

OSWESTRY-BORN hockey player Caro Hulme celebrated her first cap as Wales Ladies made a winning start to the Commonwealth Games.

A former Ellesmere College captain, the 18-year-old had travelled to the Gold Coast as a reserve with the Welsh squad with whom she trained for over two weeks.

Covering for illness or injury, she did not know whether she would make the final selection, but got her chance after midfielder Danielle Jordan broke a thumb in a practice game.

And her first game could hardly have been more dramatic as Wales stunned 2006 silver medalists India. They snatched a terrific 3-2 victory

against a side ranked 16 places higher as Natasha Marke-Jones pounced for a winner with just three minutes remaining.

"While we were disappointed to lose Danni, we are happy to welcome Caro Hulme into the team," said women's head coach Kevin Johnson before the game.

"Caro will earn her first senior Wales cap here in the first match against India, alongside fellow 18-year-old debutant Izzy Howell.

"It is positive for the future of Welsh women's

hockey to see two young players line up for their first caps in the Commonwealth Games.

"I'm sure Caro will learn so much from the experience and the opportunity she has now been offered as she embarks on her senior international career."

However, after their win against India, Wales suffered a 5-1 loss at the hands of higher rated England and went down 2-0 to South Africa in their next Pool game.

Caro, whose twin sister Lottie has also represented Wales at junior levels, was named player of the tournament for Wales at the 2016 European under-18 Championships in Gibraltar.

## Saints keen to get back to business

THE NEW SAINTS will want to ensure their triumphant season does not fizzle out as they get back to business in the Welsh Premier League with Friday night's trip to Bala Town (7.45).

With just three games left, the newly-crowned champions look to sign off on a high – starting with their visit to the Lakesiders, who have already lost 3-0 to the Saints on three occasions this season.

And the table-toppers will be championing at the bit after having had two weeks to dwell on their 1-0 loss at Bangor City in their last action at the end of March.

There was not too much wrong with the performance apart from failing to take their chances, and boss Scott Ruscoe will hope his side can quickly put that defeat behind them.

They should be in confident mood against a Bala outfit who, despite lying fourth and chasing a Europa League place, have yet to defeat the Saints in over 20 league meetings.

However, the Park Hall men will be wary of their opponents who chalked up a notable triumph when the sides met in last season's Welsh Cup final.

Bala themselves will be desperate to shake off a three-match losing run that has damaged their hopes of automatic qualification for Europe.

Ruscoe, who started his Pro Licence course in Cardiff this week, wants to ensure the champions' 13-point lead at the top is not trimmed in the next few weeks.

"I was disappointed with the result at Bangor, but thought it was a decent performance despite having a patched-up side through illness and injury," he said.

"Although we had won the league the week before, it was not a case of after the Lord Mayor's Show. The tempo of our play was good and, on other days, we could have scored four or five.

"We must have had about 70 per cent possession, but were not clinical enough."

## Leonard is looking for Guils reaction

GUILSFIELD boss Nathan Leonard will be looking for his side to up the ante when they head to Gresford Athletic in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance on Saturday (2.30).

With three league games left, the Guils still have hope of a runners-up spot, but will want to shake off a below-par showing in last week's 1-0 Huws Gray Cup exit at Holyhead Hotspur.

"They went down to 10 men early on, but we didn't take advantage of it," said Leonard.

"We had lots of possession but weren't good enough in the final third. It was hugely disappointing as we didn't work hard enough and lost too many individual battles.

"I'm looking for a big reaction on Saturday when we play Gresford Athletic away in the league."

# DOUBLE MEDAL JOY FOR FREYA

By John Bridgwater

ELLESMERE Titans swimmer Freya Anderson underlined her credentials by bagging a couple of bronze medals for Team England at the Commonwealth Games in Australia.

After racing to third in the women's 4x100m freestyle relay final, the 17-year-old followed it up with another bronze in the women's 4x200m freestyle relay.

"It was just really cool to be in that environment," she said.

"It's been great learning from other teams and seeing how they swim and how they handle themselves. It's really inspiring."

Her first medal on the Gold Coast came with a third place finish in the women's 4x100m freestyle relay, along with team-mates of Siobhan Marie O'Connor, Anna Hopkin and Eleanor Faulkner.

Australia won the event in a new world record – but Team England were comfortable in third with Anderson recording a time of 54.95 seconds for her second leg.

The teenager secured her second bronze when England finished third in the women's 4x200m freestyle relay final, with Siobhan Marie O'Connor, Eleanor Faulkner and Holly Hibbott making up the team.

Australia were again the dominant



England's Holly Hibbott, Freya Anderson, Siobhan-Marie O'Connor and Eleanor Faulkner pose with their Commonwealth Games bronze medals after the 4x200m freestyle relay final at the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre

inant force in taking the gold in seven minutes 48.04 seconds, Canada were just over a second behind in second place, while England were a further six seconds back.

Meanwhile, Anderson's Ellesmere Titans team-mate Cassie Wild, representing Scotland, progressed to the semi-final in the 100m back-

stroke but missed out on a place in the final after coming fifth in the second semi, in a time of 1.00.98.

But a personal best 28.18 saw her finish fifth in the 50m backstroke final. A really powerful last 25m saw Wild bearing down on the big guns.

The duo, coached at Ellesmere College by Alan Bircher, have tasted

success at various World and European junior competitions.

Meanwhile, Forden marathon man Andy Davies will be flying the flag for Wales as he looks to impress in Sunday's marathon.

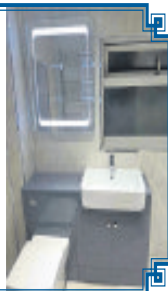
In 2017, Davies finished 16th at the London Marathon with a personal best two hours 15.11 seconds.

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